

Weekend FT Russia: Groaning under the lash of democracy

French lessons with Isabelle Huppert

12 pages of residential property

SECTION II

World Business Newspaper

WEEKEND JUNE 15/JUNE 16 1996

Diplomats keen for Bosnia poll to go ahead in September

Bosnian elections should be held by September 14 even if Bosnia Serb leaders indicted for war crimes remain in power...

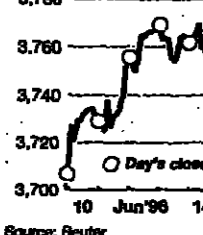
US President Bill Clinton, who has pledged to pull out the 16,000-strong US force by the end of the year...

US economic growth accelerates: US industrial production rose sharply for the second consecutive month in May...

Russian election fears hit London shares: Worries about global bond markets affected shares in London...

FT-SE 100 index

Hourly movements: 3,780 3,760 3,740 3,720 3,700



Source: Reuters

Football directors sell 4.5m shares: Four directors of English football club Manchester United have cashed in on the recent surge in its share price...

Missile bidders asked to cut prices: The UK Ministry of Defence has asked competitors bidding for a 560m (\$895m) cruise missile contract...

Appeal to accountants on liability: Michael Heseltine, the deputy UK prime minister, launched an 11th-hour attempt to stop accountancy firms registering off-shore in the island of Jersey...

European results analysis: On Monday, the Financial Times will publish a comprehensive analysis of European company results for 1996...

NeuroSearch shares soar: The price of shares in NeuroSearch, the Danish pharmaceuticals venture company, soared 38 per cent to Dkr227 in a brisk first day of trading in Copenhagen...

Yorkshire Electricity denies speculation: Yorkshire Electricity, a regional electricity company in the UK, has denied speculation that it is seeking to be taken over...

S Africa committed to tighter fiscal policy: The South African government committed itself to a tighter fiscal policy and moved cautiously to ease foreign exchange controls as it unveiled its long-awaited macro-economic strategy...

Finair shares slide 9% on warnings: Shares in Finair fell 9 per cent after the Helsinki-based airline said slower growth in traffic and higher costs would trigger a 'substantial decline' in profits for the current financial year...

Framatome rules out buying into Valeo: Framatome, the French nuclear plant group, has ruled out buying a strategic stake in Valeo, the automotive components company...

Pre-Olympic crime sweep nets 766: Police arrested 766 career criminals and violent offenders in a 10-week sweep intended to make Atlanta and two other southern cities, Birmingham and Mexico, safer during the summer Olympic games...

Portugal end Turkey's football hopes: Turkey lost 1-0 to Portugal in their Euro 96 group match at Nottingham, central England, ending their chances of moving into the quarter-finals...

Companies in this issue: 31 Kingfisher 22 Allied Carpets 6 Manchester United 22 Argos 22 Marks and Spencer 22 Austin Reed 22 Matala 22 Bantells 22 McDonnell Douglas 5 Delta 5 National Westminster 5 Daimler-Benz 22 Portsmouth & Sand 6 Diore 5 Royal Insurance 5 BPI 5 Sunamto 1,22 British Gas 22 Sears 22 Bula Resources 5 Select Appointments 5 Guinness 6 Sun Alliance 5 Hughes 5 Vardon 6 John Lewis 22 Yorkshire Electricity 6

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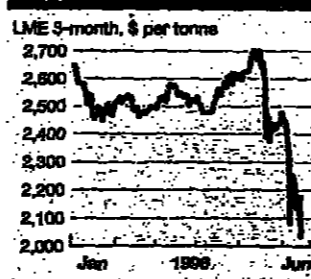
Unauthorised copper dealings to be investigated Prices rally after early selling

UK fraud office probes \$1.8bn loss by Sumitomo

By Kenneth Gooding and Norma Cohen in London and William Dawkins and Michyo Nakamoto in Tokyo

The UK's Serious Fraud Office is investigating the circumstances that led to Sumitomo Corporation, the world's largest copper trader, losing an estimated \$1.8bn in unauthorised copper dealings in the past 10 years...

Copper



LME 3-month, \$ per tonne: 2,700 2,600 2,500 2,400 2,300 2,200 2,100 2,000

Mr Tomitachi Akiyama, president of the big trading house, said he was 'overwhelmed with shame'...

However, the group's creditworthiness has been damaged. Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, downgraded Sumitomo Corporation's short-term debt...



Dismissed: Yasuo Hamanaka was once seen as the most powerful man in the business...

European rendering 'fails to kill possible BSE link'

By Deborah Hargreaves in London, Neil Buckley in Brussels and David Suchan in Paris

Most European Union rendering practices for producing meat and bone meal from animal carcasses still fail to eliminate the scrapie infection...

attribute the cause of the mad cow epidemic in the UK to a relaxation in rendering practices in the early 1990s...

This apparently allowed the BSE agent to survive in meat and bone meal for cattle that was made from sheep remains tainted with scrapie...

have cast doubt on the effectiveness of the new rules...

The Commission has drafted legislation to change rendering processes in all member countries as a result of the research...

force all countries to introduce 'pressure-cooking' methods for rendering down animal carcasses...

Rendering companies say scientific evidence showing that scrapie survives current processing techniques does not necessarily mean meat and bone meal produced by those methods is infected with scrapie...

still be fed to pigs and poultry in EU countries outside the UK...

Meanwhile, EU vets meeting in Brussels yesterday gave a broadly positive response to the UK's five-stage framework...

Russian 'MinFin' bond prices fall further in nervous market

By Nicholas Denton in London and Chryeta Frelsland in Moscow

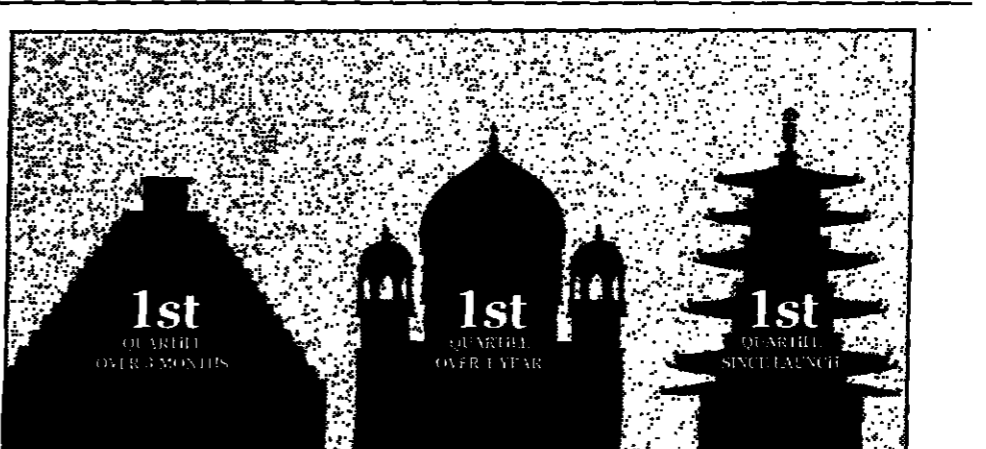
Prices of Russian Ministry of Finance bonds fell further yesterday in thin and nervous market conditions after news spread that many of the securities in circulation were stolen and had been frozen...

Western investment bankers said there was no assurance that the freeze would not spread further...

Western investment banks reported numerous inquiries by clients concerned about the security of their investments in the 'MinFin' bonds...

Investment banks in the Emerging Markets Traders Association held a conference yesterday evening to co-ordinate their approach towards the crisis...

Western investment banks are expected to warn the Russian authorities that the freezing of bonds undermines the credibility...



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Table with columns for STOCK MARKET INDICES, US LIGHTNING RATES, STERLING, DOLLAR, NORTH SEA OIL, GOLD, and LONDON MONEY.

Table with columns for CONTENTS, listing various sections like News, Letters, Foreign Exchanges, etc.

EQUESTRIAN PROPERTY

The cost of a four-legged friend

Gerald Cadogan on houses for horses

Everything equine - racehorse, hunter or pony - is a luxury. And properties with good accommodation for horses are costly. If you intend buying a horse property, make sure you know what the previous owners used it for.

Horses need pasture, loose boxes, blankets, tack (saddles and fastenings) and winter feed.

The vet does not call for free. And riders wear a costly uniform. It can start, as children, with a hacking jacket and Pony Club tie and graduate to full hunting rig. Add the expenses of livery (having the horse kept in stables) or employing a groom (in effect, one's own private livery), and the sums rise sharply.

Then one has to ride at meets or shows. A new horse box can easily cost up to £80,000 - or more depending on how many extra comforts it has for the riders and/or grooms.

Even a humble trailer may cost £2,000.

The price of paddocks has gone up too. Since they are seen as amenity land, they are at a premium to agricultural land. Today they are likely to cost between £4,000 and £5,000 an acre, which is partly an effect of the rise in farmland prices. "I have even sold a paddock of under an acre at a rate of £10,000 an acre," says Ian McConnel of Savills. He added: "The first acre always costs most. If the land goes up to 4 or 5 acres, it reduces proportionally."

In spite of the bills, the British and the Irish unite in a love of horses and a readiness to spend large sums on the animals, whether directly or by proxy in the betting shop.

Before buying a horse property, do some homework. If the property was used for racehorse training, breeding and showjumping, or if the owner was a jockey, dressage-master, eventer, or rodeo rider, the odds strengthen that it will be the sort of place where your horses will be comfortable.

An example in Ireland is Co-

ries at Bagenalstown in Co Carlow, a fine Georgian house near Mount Leinster which Jordan was due to bring to auction on Wednesday. Its previous owner was Denny Cordell-Lavack who was in the rock 'n' roll business but turned - in good Irish fashion - to training horses and greyhounds. In 1990, he had the top Irish two-year-old. The yard at Corries has 25 loose boxes on 26 acres and there is an all-weather gallop on a further 16 acres.

Rock music and horses also combine at Huckenden Farm in the Chilterns, near High Wycombe. It belongs to Alvin Lee, guitarist of Ten Years After. Besides paddocks, stabling and a field shelter, the house boasts two recording studios. The price from Andrew Milson is £850,000.

A conventional horse property in prime hunting ground is Park House at Gaddesby, between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. This Georgian house with 11 acres is the Queen's Friday country, and the Cotswolds. Belvoir and Fernie are in



Another stud for sale...

boxing distance. Such famous hunts make an enticing prospect. Fisher Hoggarth and Savills ask for £550,000.

Also in Leicestershire, the home of Desert Orchid is for sale. This great steeplechaser was bred and brought up at the Manor House at Ab Kettleby, near Melton Mowbray (John D Wood in Oxford, £360,000).

Or you could buy a place that produced a runner-up in the Grand National - Romany King in 1993. Queensford Farm is outside Dorchester-on-Thames, between Oxford and Henley. It also bred Couldn't Be Better which won the Hennessy Gold Cup in 1986. The house is Queen Anne and the price £800,000 from Strutt &

Parker in Newbury. For those wishing to breed horses, Pat Eddery's Barretts town stud, built in the 1960s, near Aylesbury costs less with 72 acres (John D Wood in Oxford, £800,000) than the first million pound yearling that it produced. Another stud for sale is Elmwell Park near Bury St

Edmunds (S & P in Ipswich, £1.35m), which has bred or raised several winners of big races and was originally the home of the leading stallion, Indian Ridge. The price includes 120 acres and three cottages, as well as the expected foaling unit, stallion box, covering barn and covered exercise yard.

An equally good racing connection is the house that John Francome built 20 years ago, and later sold, near Lambourn in Berkshire. Windy Hollow (John D Wood in Winchester, £525,000) comes with 22 loose boxes and an indoor school.

At Holyport, near Maidenhead in Berkshire, Lane Fox offers two houses - Belmont Farm and Great Oaks - with stabling that may appeal to those who want to ride in Windsor Great Park (with permit) rather than hunt. Both are priced at £750,000.

Farther from London, horse properties are cheaper. From the 52-acre Broadmead Farm at West Knovle (Humberts, £575,000) one may hunt with the South & West Wilts, and the Portman and Blackmore Vale hunts are in boxing distance.

In Somerset, Foxtwitchen House near Withypool (Jackson-Stops, £335,000) was built of Canadian cedar in 1987 in the heart of what is now the Exmoor National Park, with 17 acres and views down the Barle valley. Here you can chase foxes or ride out with the Devon and Somerset Stag-hounds.

Fisher Hoggarth, Market Harborough (01858-410200); Humberts, Shaftesbury (01747-853432); Jackson-Stops, Exeter (01392-214222); Jordan, Newbridge, Co Kildare (00353-45-433500); Lane Fox, Pangbourne (01794-845757); Andrew Milson, Marlrow (01628-890707); Savills, Stamford (01780-662223); Strutt & Parker, Ipswich (01473-214941) and Newbury (01635-321707); John D Wood, Oxford (01865-311322) and Winchester (01963-883181).

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NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

US economy shows signs of faster growth

By Michael Prowse in Washington

US industrial production rose sharply for the second consecutive month in May, confirming an acceleration of economic growth...

The case for an early rate increase is not to combat existing inflation, but to prevent above-trend economic growth...

Most economists expect growth at an annualised rate of 3.5-4.0 per cent in the second quarter...

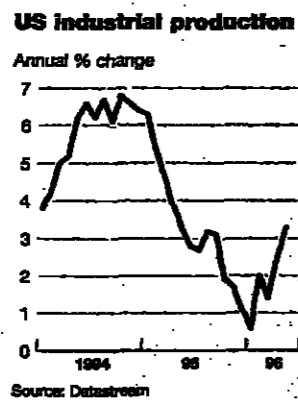
However, the Fed said the figures were distorted by a weather-related surge in electricity production...

Separate figures for business inventories showed a 0.4 per cent gain in April...

Yesterday's data confirmed other recent signs of faster growth including sharp increases in retail sales...

Some analysts expect a move as soon as the Fed's policy meeting on July 2 and 3...

Others expect the Fed to wait until August or even to defer rate increases until after the November election.



US industrial production



Vehicles containing the 16 Freemen on their way to surrender after the FBI negotiated an end to the 81-day stand-off

Peaceful end to Montana siege as authorities learn lessons of Waco

Patience paid off, says FBI

By Jurek Martin in Washington

The FBI was yesterday basking in what has become unaccustomed praise following Thursday night's peaceful end to its 81-day siege of a group of armed anti-government extremists...

Mr Louis Freeh, the FBI's director, said on several mornings television programmes that the policy of putting "patience above the risk of bloodshed" had been justified...

The only concession in negotiations before the denouement was an agreement to place masses of documents, which the Freemen allege reveal government conspiracies on a grand scale...

Military vehicles were rarely in evidence and roadblocks were frequently moved so as to lessen perceived threats.

James "Bo" Gritz.

It also became apparent over the weeks that local support for the group was virtually non-existent even though the north-west has become favoured territory for anti-government extremists...

The FBI used a range of new tactics during the siege. Agents dressed casually and not in the black paramilitary uniforms seen at Waco...

Military vehicles were rarely in evidence and roadblocks were frequently moved so as to lessen perceived threats.

They tried to maintain a defiant posture to the end. A last act was to raise the Confederate flag over a sentry post on the farm...

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

Sun-Diamond in bribes case

Sun-Diamond, California's leading fruit and nut marketing co-operative, has been accused of making illegal payments to Mr Mike Espy, former US agriculture secretary...

The indictment alleged Mr Espy received money and gifts worth up to \$9,000 from a Sun-Diamond "senior officer".

Lawyers representing Mr Espy and Sun-Diamond executives dismissed the accusations as "smear" attempts...

Greek airport finance agreed

Greece yesterday signed a DM4.1bn (\$2.7bn) financing package for construction of Athens's new international airport...

The airport, intended to become a hub for south-eastern Europe, will be managed by Flughafen Frankfurt...

Israeli inflation misses target

Israel's annual inflation rate rose to 12.4 per cent in May, from 11.6 per cent the month before...

It is unclear how the Israeli prime-minister-elect, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, will be able to make these budget cuts...

Bundesrat blocks telecom bill

The German government's bill to liberalise telecommunications was blocked yesterday by the Bundesrat, the second chamber representing the federal states...

The Bundesrat called for arbitration on 22 points. It wants a bigger role for the states over the licensing of new telecom companies...

Australia drops tax reform

The Australian government was yesterday forced to drop its plan to add about A\$1.2bn (US\$962.30m) a year to federal coffers by removing the wholesale sales tax exemption...

The federal government is looking to prune A\$8bn from its own expenditures over the next few years in an effort to bring the federal budget into balance...

Hong Kong air pact is agreed

Britain and China have concluded a new air services agreement covering Hong Kong, which gives additional routes to the territory's airlines and new rights to mainland carriers...

Cathay Pacific, the territory's de facto flag carrier, has been awarded the right to fly over Chinese airspace for its main services to Europe, North America and to Hanoi...

Argentina cancels IBM contract

IBM said yesterday it would "vigorously do what is necessary to protect our rights" after Argentina's state-owned Banco Nación cancelled a \$249m contract to computerise its 225 branches...

The bank, which has already paid \$80m to IBM, is expected to seek compensation. The US company is likely to counter-sue.

Russian general in Nato threat

General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defence minister, called yesterday for closer co-operation between his country and Nato in Bosnia and elsewhere...

Arizona governor accused of extortion

By Christopher Parkes in Los Angeles

Mr Fife Symington, the bankrupt governor of Arizona, has been indicted on more than 20 extortion and fraud charges after a four-year investigation...

The former real estate magnate, who filed for bankruptcy last year with liabilities of \$24m and claimed assets of \$81,000...

During electioneering campaigns he projected himself as the developer who had survived the real estate crisis...

Mr Symington, who has repeatedly said he would not step down if indicted, was the target of an attempt to criminalise "errors and omissions" in his financial records...

Smog fighters take on the Big Country

Seven states have agreed action to clear the air above America's greatest spectacle

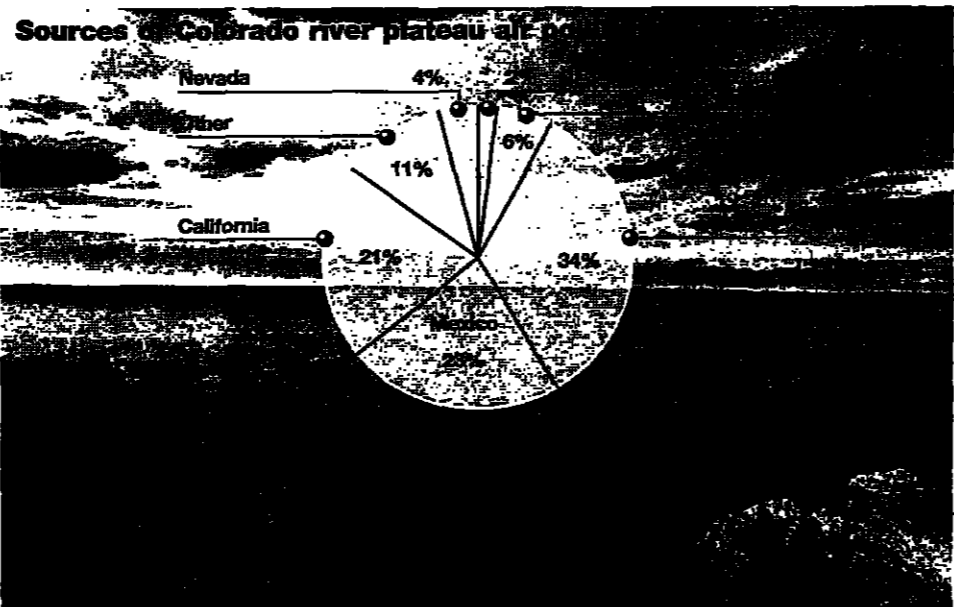
On a clear day you can see for ever, almost. But in Grand Canyon country on a hazy day, visibility shrinks by more than half to about 70 miles...

Snapshots taken home by the canyon's 5m annual sightseers exaggerate the visual effect of the smog which creeps in from the booming economies of Arizona and neighbouring states...

The problem is worst in the peak holiday season, when winter's northerly winds ease and summer southerlies waft dirty air on to the Colorado River Plateau...

Now, in a rare spirit of co-operation, seven western states and four native American tribes have agreed to collaborate to clear the air...

Only Nevada, home to allegedly the dirtiest power plant in the region, withheld its approval. Even so, its coal-fired Mohave generating station at Laughlin near the western end of the canyon...



Population in the west is forecast to double in the next 50 years, to 100m. Additional demand for electricity in the next 20 years...

California, despite its role as regional leader in pollution control, contributes more than 20 per cent of the pollutants. However, it was warmest in welcoming the deal...

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Nigerian police question family of jailed presidential candidate

By Paul Adams in Lagos

A dozen members of the family of Mr Moshood Abiola, the jailed Nigerian presidential candidate, have been questioned in the investigation into the murder of his senior wife...

Mr Abiola, winner of the annulled 1993 presidential election, was detained two years ago and charged with treason for declaring himself president...

Mr Abiola's family are to make a joint statement this weekend about the murder. At least five of Mr Abiola's relatives, including his brother Mubashiru...

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Depu

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Deputy PM appeals to accountants on liability

By Jim Kelly, Accountancy Correspondent
Mr Michael Heseltine, the deputy prime minister, has launched an 11th-hour attempt to stop accountancy firms registering off-shore in the island of Jersey to protect partners' personal wealth from litigation.

asked if they would reconsider off-shore registration if the protection offered by Jersey was available in the UK. Further meetings are planned. It is understood that the accountants were told that Mr Heseltine feared that the off-shore option was a threat to the reputation and competitiveness of the City of London.

The Jersey parliament is due next week to debate a bill which would allow the big firms to register as limited liability partnerships. Under this law the firms are still liable, as are negligent partners, but the personal wealth of other partners in the firm is not at risk.

The UK Department of Trade and Industry is considering measures which could limit professional liability in the UK including limited liability partnerships. Mr Heseltine's intervention is seen as increasing the chances of rapid reform. So far two firms have shown a clear interest in Jersey. Ernst & Young's 390 partners will vote on registering in Jersey this autumn.

Price Waterhouse, with 400 partners, is also expected to put the move to partners this year. Several firms from other professions, such as actuaries, were expected to follow.

Limited liability partnerships can be set up under UK law but are severely restricted in their practical use. It is understood the government is considering the possibility that the current partnership law could be amended quickly.

Cash gifts to Labour party increase sharply

By Jimmy Burns in London
The opposition Labour party is recording a big rise in private donations as the next general election draws closer, say senior party officials. Donations, excluding trade union dues and membership subscriptions, are expected to total a record of £5.5m (\$10m) this year compared with £5.2m last year and £3.7m in 1994, according to internal party estimates.

The organisers are hoping to boost income from the event by drawing in corporate sponsors. In addition to a "champagne reception", sponsors are being sought for the wine, star-dinner, whisky or cognac and chocolate and novelist Ruth Rendell. The organisers are hoping to boost income from the event by drawing in corporate sponsors.



Margaret Thatcher in 1990 at her last Conservative party conference as prime minister; her speeches are not always welcomed in the party today. On Thursday Mr John Major, her successor as premier, publicly rebuked her for the first time.

Bidders for cruise missile order are urged to cut prices

By Bernard Gray, Defence Correspondent

The UK Ministry of Defence has asked competitors bidding for a \$650m (\$905m) cruise missile contract for last-minute price cuts in an unusual move which intensifies the battle for the order.

The move follows a strong showing by the Taurus missile, offered by Daimler-Benz Aerospace and Bofors of Sweden, which has proved the cheapest offering. However, the Taurus team has not signed up any large British defence companies as partners, thereby weakening the political credentials of its bid.

British Gas attacks regulator over proposal to restrict prices

The prospect of a long Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into British Gas pipeline charges looked increasingly likely yesterday after the company launched a swinging attack on industry regulator Ofgas. Robert Corzine writes.

Executives said that controversial price control proposals published by Ofgas last month were "ill conceived, damage to British Gas shareholders and to the overall interests of gas consumers."

Ms Lara Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, published a tough pricing formula last month for Transco, the British Gas pipeline division, which she said would reduce the average household gas bill of around by £30 (\$46) a year, or 10 per cent, rising to £50 over five years.

Mr Philip Rogerson, deputy chairman of British Gas, yesterday said the proposals "assume reductions in costs... which cannot be achieved". They would also undermine the company's capacity to pay its dividend. He accused Ofgas of having conducted a "theoretical exercise that was intellectually flawed... and which had little link to the real world."

Executives claimed that the proposed cuts in capital and operating expenditure would threaten the smooth introduction of full gas competition for 19m gas consumers in 1998. They would also put at risk the safety of the national gas grid, one of the country's most important infrastructure networks.

Mr Rogerson added that the Ofgas plan would cut British Gas's asset base by £6bn to £8bn, and slash Transco's profits by £500m by 2002. Ofgas, which in recent weeks has received letters from around 50,000 angry British Gas shareholders, said it would not respond to individual allegations from the company.

Delta shares fall 33p on first-half warning

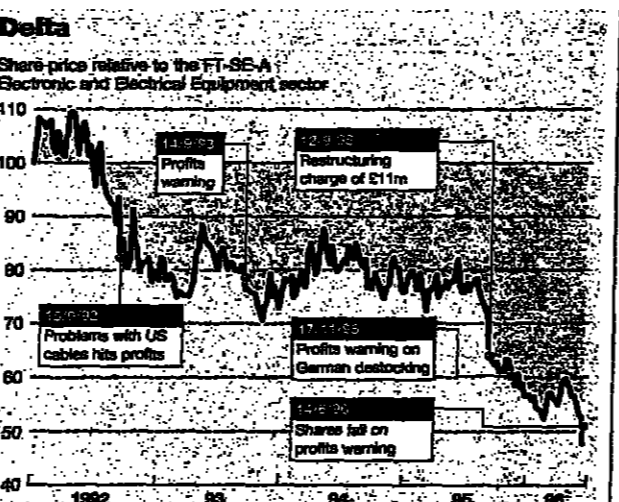
By Tim Burt
Shares in Delta yesterday fell 33p to 360p after the cables and engineering group warned that volatile copper prices and sluggish demand in the construction industry would undermine first-half profits.

Although Mr Easton predicted a "bounce back" in the second half, most analysts cut their full-year profit forecasts from about 70m to £50m. "Every year we start off with reasonable expectations only to be disappointed," said Mr Richard Dyt at Henderson Growthwrite. Ms Katie Still at NatWest Securities warned that there was "no guarantee that Delta's markets would not deteriorate further."

Last year, customer destocking and fluctuating raw material prices pushed profits in Delta's cables arm down from £55m to £700,000. The company, however, predicted it would recoup its inventory write-downs in the second half of this year by maintaining selling prices to cable customers in the construction and telecommunications industries.

Mr Easton said the reorganisation of Delta's German engineering and circuit protection operations and UK wiring accessories business would lead to annual cost savings of £6m. He added that the company did not expect to make further large restructuring provisions this year. Some analysts suggested that was over-optimistic given the intense competition in the cable industry.

Other cablemakers, such as BICC and Alcatel Alsthom, have pushed through hefty restructurings in recent months and could undercut Delta's selling prices. BICC said that, unlike Delta, it did not write down its copper stocks according to changes in the spot price and therefore was not subject to the same vagaries on the value of its inventories. Nevertheless, BICC shares fell 11p to 327p on market fears that its cablemaking margins could be squeezed.



NatWest raises £464m in 3i sale

By George Graham, Banking Correspondent

National Westminster Bank yesterday raised £464m (\$710m) from the sale of its 17.7 per cent stake in 3i, the venture capital group.

Solid 'yes' vote for merger of Royal and Sun

By Ralph Atkins and John Authers

Shareholders in Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance yesterday voted overwhelmingly for the £6bn (\$9.18bn) merger of the two insurance companies, significantly reducing the chances of the deal being wrecked by a late third-party entrant.

The merger, which will create the largest UK composite insurer - selling both life and general products - is now expected to be completed on July 19, subject to court and regulatory approval.

At an extraordinary meeting in London, 10,067 Royal Insurance shareholders, representing 80.5m shares, voted in favour of the merger with 383 shareholders, representing a total of 818,783 shares, voting against.

At Sun Alliance's EGM a few hours later, the group's shareholders voted in favour by a majority of about 400m votes. The strong shareholder support makes unlikely - but not impossible - a late bid by another insurer for either company in the hope of blocking the creation of a group with a 20 per cent share of the UK market.

Mr Roger Taylor, Sun Alliance chief executive who would become executive deputy chairman in merged group, said that Royal & Sun Alliance "will be a new global force in insurance, better able to respond to the challenges in the mature UK market and to take advantage of growth opportunities overseas."

The Sun Alliance meeting took less than 10 minutes to approve, without questions, four motions relating to the deal. But Royal Insurance had a bumper ride. Mr Allan Gornally, chairman, faced repeated questioning for an hour about the safeguards for staff, before the motions allowing the merger to proceed were passed.

Mr Gornally defended the decision to announce that 4,000 UK job losses were likely, saying that it was best to be "up front" rather than allow morale to be undermined by speculation. He also denied claims that Royal was the "junior partner" in the merger, and would lose its identity after 150 years of history.

It was "really a merger of equals", he said, although Sun Alliance had the larger market capitalisation at the time the deal was agreed. Mr Gornally also hinted that the two groups were confident of satisfying competition regulators over one possible concern - the combined groups' dominance of specialist boiler engineering insurance.

"We haven't yet encountered any significant difficulties, and we aren't expecting to. We expect to win the argument," he said.

Bula moves on Russian dispute

By Jane Martinson
Bula Resources, the Dublin-based oil exploration and production company, has moved to end uncertainties over its activities in Siberia by severing its links with a Russian company and demanding the departure of two directors.

South American joint ventures for BPB

By Andrew Taylor, Construction Correspondent

BPB Industries, Europe's biggest plasterboard manufacturer, yesterday announced its first substantial investment in South America.

The UK company has agreed to form a series of plasterboard and plaster joint ventures to develop the South American market with the group, the Chilean family-owned industrial and financial conglomerate.

In a separate move, BPB and El Volcan announced plans to build a £20m plasterboard plant in São Paulo, Brazil. As part of the deal El Volcan will take a 45 per cent stake in Placo do Brasil, previously wholly owned by BPB.

The group last year unsuccessfully bid \$1.12bn for National Gypsum, the second largest US plasterboard manufacturer. Mr Cuny said yesterday: "It is our intention to become a large world manufacturer of plasterboard. This would involve having a presence in major markets, such as North and South America and south-east Asia - but only when and where this is financially viable."

A dispute between the Russian Transcontinental Financial-Industrial Corporation and Akt-Otyr, a joint stock company with a licence to produce oil in Siberia, had resulted in complicated litigation which Bula felt was affecting its right to 51 per cent of Akt-Otyr. Yesterday Bula agreed to pay the Russian Corporation £2.1m (£1.87m) over an 18-month period for its disputed share of Akt-Otyr.

The first ventures will be in Chile and Brazil, where BPB has a small marketing operation. The eventual size of the combined stake has yet to be decided, but will be on the basis of 60:40 in Matte's favour, said Mr Jean Pierre Cuny, BPB's chief executive.

In a separate move, BPB and El Volcan announced plans to build a £20m plasterboard plant in São Paulo, Brazil. As part of the deal El Volcan will take a 45 per cent stake in Placo do Brasil, previously wholly owned by BPB. The share of subsequent investments in South America will be on the same proportion as the Brazil deal, said Mr Cuny.

It is the first substantial move outside of Europe by BPB since Mr Cuny was appointed chief executive in 1994. The group last year unsuccessfully bid \$1.12bn for National Gypsum, the second largest US plasterboard manufacturer. Mr Cuny said yesterday: "It is our intention to become a large world manufacturer of plasterboard. This would involve having a presence in major markets, such as North and South America and south-east Asia - but only when and where this is financially viable."

Select cash call for US buys

By Jane Martinson

Select Appointments, a USM-quoted international recruitment agency is to raise £24.6m (\$37.83m) via an open offer of shares, partly to cover the purchase of the US recruitment agencies for \$30m.

The offer of 8.8m new shares at 25p is available to existing holders on a 1-for-7.26 basis. The shares use 14p to 27p yesterday. About £10m of the proceeds will be spent on further in-fill acquisitions.

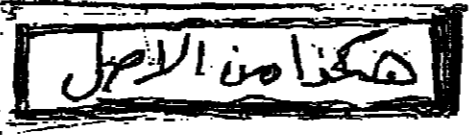
Mr Tony Martin, chairman, said: "In the past three years, we have been putting our footprints down around the world so that we can build a diversified recruitment group. Now we are focusing on organic growth and complementary acquisitions."

Select is buying the two west coast-based agencies - Toner and Placement Pros - from the founding shareholders. It said the deal would enable its US business to offer a nationwide service. The group, which is aiming for a full listing this summer, operates 34 companies in 18 countries.

Waverley, a group of Swiss investors which rescued Select in 1991 and which retains a 66 per cent stake, has agreed to pay £18.5m for its share of the new offer. The balance is underwritten by brokers Granville Davies.

Table with 4 columns: Company, Turnover (£m), Pre-tax profit (£m), EPS (p), Current payment (p), Date of payment, Dividends corresponding dividend, Total for year, Total for year. Includes companies like Barnardine, Demmans Electrical, Farnley & Hillier, etc.

Figures shown below. Dividends shown net. Figures in brackets are for corresponding period. *Equivalent after showing for scrip issue. (M) m. (B) bn. (S) stock. (A) am. (O) exceptional charge. (W) after exceptional credit. (E) includes special and other share consideration. (C) comparative. (A) comparative. (A) comparative for four months.



COMPANIES AND FINANCE

Finnair shares slide 9% on warning

By Greg McIvor in Stockholm

Shares in Finnair plunged 9 per cent yesterday after the Helsinki-based airline said slower growth in traffic and higher costs would trigger a "substantial decline" in profits for the current financial year.

good level of profitability without growth under present conditions is nearly impossible," Mr Potila said. "If there is no growth, restructuring soon becomes necessary."

Costs of fuel and landing and navigation fees were rising, the company said, while payroll costs were projected to grow by between 4 and 5 per cent in excess of Finnish inflation.

Turnover rose 7.9 per cent to FM7.3bn, against FM6.7bn, but air transport revenues per revenue tonne kilometre - a key indicator - shrank 2.5 per cent

from the previous year, when they rose 3 per cent. The company said yields were continuing to fall so far this year.

Framatome rules out buying into Valeo

By David Owen in Paris

Framatome, the French nuclear plant group, has ruled out buying a strategic stake in Valeo, the automotive components company.

Yorkshire Elec quells takeover speculation

By Simon Holbourn

Yorkshire Electricity, the regional electricity company, yesterday moved to quell speculation that it is seeking to be taken over.

the market because of confusion over dividend policy. Total dividends paid rose 10 per cent but dividends per share rose only 7.3 per cent to 39.18p allowing for a 5-for-6 consolidation earlier this year.

Man United directors in £21m share sale

By Patrick Horsvoren

Four directors of Manchester United have cashed in on the recent surge in the football club's share price by selling more than 4.5m shares for £21m.

BSkyB, the satellite television channel. United's shares had risen sharply in the days before the BSkyB deal was signed in anticipation that the club, as champions of the Premier League and Britain's most popular team, would be among the biggest beneficiaries.

news that the four directors had sold 7.3 per cent of the equity on the open market. Dealers said that with only a limited number of shares in circulation, the opportunity to buy had been snapped up by institutions.

At the time, Mr Edwards promised not to sell any more shares without the consent of Merrill Lynch, the club's broker.

However, the club said yesterday that since then institutions eager to buy the stock had pressured the broker to persuade the United chairman to release some more shares to the market.

Allied Carpets staff poised for cash pile

By Christopher Brown-Humes

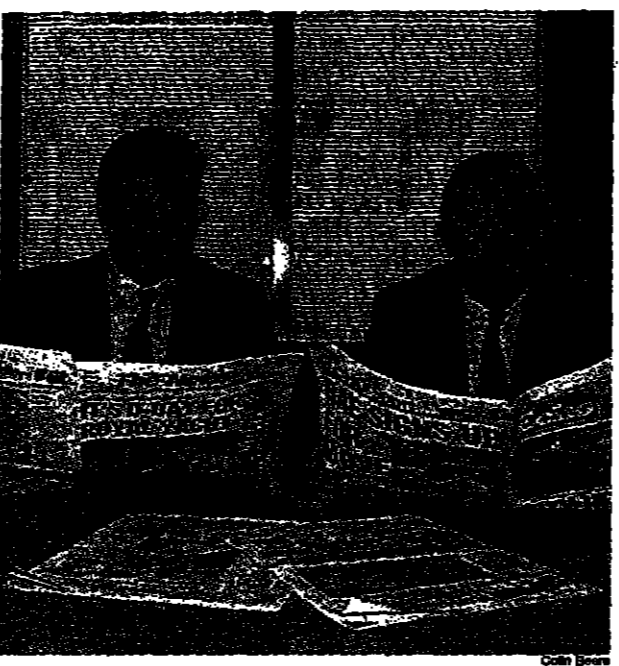
Staff who invested in the 1991 management buy-out of Allied Carpets could see a 60-fold return on their outlay when the group floats this summer.

Exceptional gain from disposal lifts P&S to £18.6m

By John Authers

Portsmouth and Sunderland, the regional newspapers and retailing group, reported a 3 per cent rise in underlying full-year profits to £2m, although the pre-tax figure was buoyed to £18.6m by an exceptional £10m gain from the sale of the Croydon Advertiser group in December.

any national printing contracts, higher newspaper costs and the store opening programme would all cut profitability in the short term.



Charles Brims (left) and Sir Richard Storey, chairman: both significant interest and depreciation costs will be incurred

At this level, a £500 investment five years ago would be worth £30,000 while the £50,000 invested by Mr Ray Nethercott, managing director, would convert to £3m.

Managers had predicted that profits would decline after a year of heavy investment, and predicted another slight fall in profits this year.

Sales from the group's chain of One Stop convenience stores rose 40 per cent to £78m. The group opened an extra 22 shops during the year to make a total of 122. It plans to continue opening 30 a year.

fall in 1996-97 pre-tax profits to about £2.5m, with earnings per share of 44p.

Earnings per share, after adjusting for the disposal, fell to 43.7p (43.5p).

Vardon takes the healthy option

By David Blackwell

Vardon added a fourth leg to its leisure businesses yesterday with the £40.5m acquisition of Dynamic Leisure, a health club operator.

Mr Vardon's board had been determined to add another division next year in order to soak up the cash being thrown off by the bingo, holiday, and attractions divisions. But the opportunity to buy Archer had been too good to miss.

Archer operates nine private health clubs, as well as managing 25 local authority amenities.

Mr Tegelaars said there was considerable scope for growth in local authority business, as only just over 16 per cent was contracted to the private sector.

NeuroSearch shares soar as trading begins

By Hilary Barnes in Copenhagen

The price of shares in NeuroSearch, the pharmaceuticals venture company, soared 33 per cent to DKK227 in a brisk first day of trading in Copenhagen yesterday.

When the company's first public share offering closed on Thursday the issue was oversubscribed 17 times. The price was fixed at DKK170 a share, the maximum level quoted when the offer was made.

NeuroSearch, founded in 1989 by a team of scientists from Ferrosan, which was taken over by Novo Nordisk, the insulin and enzymes manufacturer, in the same year, has specialised in developing compounds for the treatment of disorders of the central nervous system.

Making stout profits: in black and white

Bloom might splutter into his pint of Guinness if he turned up in Dublin tomorrow for the annual celebration of his urban odyssey in James Joyce's Ulysses.

Roderick Oram explains why Guinness believes cold porter is hot

the coldest beer on the bar. Bloom drank his Guinness at room temperature but the beer has gradually chilled out to 12°C-13°C in the 1970s, then to 8°C-10°C in the 1980s and 6°C-8°C in the early 1990s.



Chilling out: Guinness has become cool and is now served at 3°C

ies and neatly shipped to him as a flat pack in a couple of containers. The most expensive one yet has just opened in Atlanta at a cost of \$1.5m (280,000).

The Guinness Irish Pub Concept company, launched in 1982, is helping local investors open pubs at a rate of one a day around the world. The 1,000th pub is up on the computer screens and will open in late summer. Guinness makes its money selling the pints Guinness stout, Kilkenny ale and Harp Lager and the rapid growth of the pubs was one reason why its beer exports from Ireland have risen 16 per cent so far this year.

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Saturday June 15 1996

Russian roulette

Russia is the Wild East. Neither its fledgling market economy, nor its faltering democratic system, can be said to obey a set of recognisable laws. Four and a half years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it is a rash person who would forecast the outcome of tomorrow's presidential election, let alone whether there will be a second round next month. This is an election which almost certainly matters more to the rest of the world than the US presidential election in November. The differences between Messrs Clinton and Dole are merely a question of degree. Both accept the system in which they operate. There is no such certainty about the different candidates for power in Russia. Few of them can be said to understand what democracy means, let alone to embrace it with enthusiasm. Even fewer really know what a market economy is all about. The system is therefore at stake, not merely who steers it. Perhaps that may sound too apocalyptic. The likelihood is that the first round of the election will produce a run-off between the front-runners. President Boris Yeltsin and his arch-rival, Mr Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the Communist party. Six months ago, Mr Yeltsin's chances looked somewhere between slim and hopeless. Today, the opinion polls suggest that he enjoys a lead of between 5 and 15 percentage points. In the past five weeks, the Moscow stock market index has doubled as investors have registered their relief. Yet those Russian polls are notoriously unreliable. In a country long ruled by the fearsome KGB, few will give an honest answer to a stranger on the doorstep. Moreover, one trend has been common to almost all the elections held in the former Soviet empire (including eastern Europe) since its collapse: a revolt against the first reformers. Those factors could count in Mr Zyuganov's favour.

in bond and equity prices and, perhaps most important, a rapid flight out of roubles by foreign and domestic investors alike. As far as it is possible to judge, Mr Zyuganov's instinct in the face of a rapid rouble decline and corresponding lurch upward in inflation would be to try to re-impose some form of price controls. After several years of free prices, such policies stand very little chance of being effective. But it might be a while before he admitted defeat: by which time the IMF would have ended its support and the government's credibility with international markets would be in shreds. Picking quarrels The political reaction of an internationally isolated Communist leader could be very dangerous. One temptation would be to raise the nationalist banner, possibly by picking quarrels with one or more of the former Soviet republics, like the Baltic states, or Ukraine. Such gestures, in the middle of a US presidential campaign, would invite rapid retaliation, and a return to cold war confrontation. If a vote for Mr Zyuganov is a vote for the past; those who are thinking of the future of Russia can turn to Grigory Yavlinsky, the candidate closest to being a genuine reformer. If he comes a strong third in the ballot - the best he can probably hope for - his vote would send a signal that there is a significant constituency for sustained reform. The question-mark over Mr Yeltsin is precisely how firmly he is committed to that aim. If elected, he would enjoy a honeymoon in markets which would make it much easier to keep the economy on course. The worry is whether he will keep all, or any, of his microeconomic promises: such as increased foreign openness, an overhaul of the tax system, and beefed-up competition policy. Mr Yeltsin has clawed his way back to popularity by blatantly using the powers of his office. He has beaten an increasingly nationalist drum, and exploited his own domination of the security services and the media. The financial and industrial interests that have rallied behind him over the past six months will want some kind of payback. That augurs ill for further liberalisation of the economy, or the political system. A victory for Mr Zyuganov would at best be very bad, at worst, disastrous. A victory for Mr Yeltsin would mean more muddled, half-hearted reform. In today's Wild East, that is the best that can be hoped for.

The tale of Mr Five Per Cent

Kenneth Gooding on the events that led the most powerful trader in the world's copper markets to run up big losses for Sumitomo

Copper is the world's most heavily traded metal and one of the most useful. Switch on a light and it works because copper wiring is carrying the current. Turn on a tap and there is a good chance the water will flow through copper pipes. So the price of copper - set globally by traders at the London Metal Exchange - really matters. Yet the copper market has been in turmoil for the past month as prices have plummeted. Traders thought they had seen the worst of it on June 6 when the price quoted on the exchange fell by 15 per cent in just two hours of pandemonium. The scale and the speed of the drop was unprecedented. Our copper dealer was having to quote a price every second," said one dealer. "I thought he was going to have a heart attack." By the end of that trading session, copper's price had dropped by 26 per cent in just six trading days. The market was full of rumours about the financial disaster this might cause among traders. "There are bound to be casualties in a market like that," a trader pointed out. Traders suggested the turmoil was being caused by a huge battle between Sumitomo, the big Japanese trading house, and two big US hedge funds - Mr George Soros's Quantum fund and Mr Julian Robertson's Tiger fund. The latter were believed to be intent on driving down the copper price, while Sumitomo was determined they would not succeed. Only a very few people - sworn to secrecy - knew that Sumitomo's copper trading department was also in a state of turmoil. But traders love to gossip and a rumour circulated that Sumitomo had shifted Mr Yasuo Hamanaka, seen as the most powerful trader in the global copper business, to a new job. It was this that started the price slide at the end of May. Sumitomo confirmed he had indeed been moved, but said he was to take on a wider role in the metals trading department. Most traders assumed he had been pushed sideways because Sumitomo had become fed up with being blamed for gyrations in the copper market. What emerged yesterday was that Mr Hamanaka was helping regulators with their inquiries. Sumitomo announced that Mr Hamanaka had lost \$1.8bn over 10 years by "unauthorised trading" - a revelation which sent the international copper community into deep shock. To that community Mr Hamanaka was a living legend - a man who rarely wound up on the wrong end of a deal and had consistently made large profits for Sumitomo. In Japan he was known as "Mr Five Per Cent" because Sumitomo was believed to account for that much of global copper trading. His influence on the London Metals Exchange was far greater. Mr Charlie Vincent, co-owner with Mr Ashley Levett of Winchester Commodity Group, a broker Sumitomo used for some of its copper dealings



in London, claimed recently that their group accounted for 14 per cent of the exchange's copper market turnover. Mr Hamanaka's powerful position flowed from the fact that Sumitomo was one of the world's leading traders of physical copper, handling up to 750,000 tonnes for clients, mainly in Asia but increasingly in Europe. That was roughly 7 per cent of the 10.4m tonnes used in the world outside the former eastern bloc countries and China last year. Unlike most Japanese trading houses, Sumitomo hedged its copper dealings by trading futures and options as well as buying copper for immediate delivery. In this way, it has been exerting a tremendous influence on the market. Mr Hamanaka's powerful position in the copper business became particularly apparent in 1993 when copper for immediate delivery seemed to be virtually unavailable - forcing

traders to pay a premium. Traders on the London Metals Exchange complained that while there appeared to be plenty of copper stocked in LME authorised warehouses, Sumitomo controlled most of it and would not let it go. Mr Hamanaka admitted that Sumitomo did control a lot of the stock but needed it to guarantee a smooth supply of metal to its customers. The group offered a type of "just-in-time" system designed to minimise customers' stocks and risks, regardless of price or supply disruptions. His group had been buying copper because it had received some large orders from big customers. Nevertheless, after the 1993 squeeze, Credit Lyonnais Rouse, part of the French banking group, which acted as LME clearing broker for Sumitomo among other clients, apologised for its part in the squeeze. It paid \$100,000 towards

exchange costs, which traders saw as a fine for irresponsibility. But still the squeezes continued and so did the complaints. Last November the LME started an inquiry that ultimately led to Mr Hamanaka's downfall. The LME's concern was to preserve orderly markets. It is a unique exchange, the world's leading futures market for trading in lead, zinc, primary aluminium, aluminium alloy, nickel and tin as well as copper. Most world metal industry supply contracts are based on its official prices. As recently as 1985, however, it was being written off after its members collectively lost \$800m in a collapse of the tin market. Recovery has been remarkable. In the past six years turnover has risen by 700 per cent and last year was equivalent to 1bn tonnes of metal worth \$2,500bn. Mr Raj Bagri, the chairman, suggests this is because the exchange

has attempted to provide the metal industries with the services they need. One of these is to provide a market where users can find the physical metal they need and where producers can offload excess metal. But Mr Bagri is acutely aware that orderly trading will not always be easy to maintain with the increasing mobility of international capital and the massive increase in futures buying. "This makes it comparatively easy or tempting for one or more participants, individually or acting in concert, to create in any free market like ours such dominant positions so as to result in potentially undesirable situations or practices." The exchange will not say what it discovered in the November inquiry but information was passed to the Securities and Futures Association, one of its regulators. It called in the UK Treasury and contacts were made with Japanese officials. They then contacted Sumitomo which immediately started the internal inquiry which led to Mr Hamanaka's dismissal and disclosure of the huge losses.

What now happens in the market depends on whether the copper price stabilises or drops dramatically. A sharp fall could cause financial casualties among members of the London Metals Exchange and elsewhere in the copper industry. More important, a further fall would hit copper producers, forcing them to shut mines. If extensive, this would seriously damage the economies of copper-producing countries such as Chile and Peru. Sumitomo helped stabilise the situation yesterday by insisting it would carry on trading copper as usual. And the London Metals Exchange survived its first trading day after the news without the meltdown that some expected. "The market has proved it can take this kind of thing on the chin," Mr Bagri said last night. Nevertheless, the exchange is bound to be subject to criticism. It is not the first time a rogue copper trader has run up big losses. In 1993 a trader at Codelco, the Chilean group which is the world's biggest producer, lost more than \$170m as the price plunged. Mr Bagri says the exchange is always looking at procedures to prevent market manipulation but it cannot be held responsible for poor trading or lack of control at client companies. The exchange is preparing itself for further action over the losses. In the Codelco case, company managers lost their jobs for failing to supervise the trader, and some civil suits were launched for the return of "excessive commissions" and other allegedly improper payments. "This is not the end of the [Hamanaka] story," says Mr Bagri. "If you claim to lose \$1.8bn it seems unbelievable that one man alone could be responsible. Quite clearly the authorities here and abroad will be wanting to know just how it happened. I certainly want to know."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. We are keen to encourage letters from readers around the world. Letters may be faxed to +44 171-873 5938 (please set fax to "fme"). e-mail: letters.editor@ft.com Translation may be available for letters written in the main international languages.

UN leader should be chosen on merit not by political horse-trading

From Dame Margaret Anstee. Sir, May I most heartily endorse the wise proposal in your leader of June 6 ("Choosing a UN leader") for a more objective and rational process of selection for the post of secretary-general of the United Nations, based on carefully compared merits of a number of qualified candidates? It would be an enormous improvement on the political horse-trading which has decided the appointment during the first half century of the organisation's existence. More importantly, it would mark a key step towards the major reform of the UN, particularly if the same procedure were extended to the top posts of all UN organisations and agencies. As a veteran of many attempts at UN reform - both as architect and implementer - I have lost my faith in logical, across-the-board reform. The conflicting interests of member states mean that logical plans that require the meticulous interlocking of related actions on many fronts are doomed to dilution and failure. The only real possibility for

successful reform lies in adopting a few key measures that would have a multiplier effect. A proper "headhunt" for the post of secretary-general and those of other leaders in the UN system would certainly do this and be more effective than any formal reorganisation. At the same time, tenure should be limited to a single period, though that might be longer than at present - only one bite at the cherry, but a larger cherry. This would do much to lessen the impact of political pressures on internal management and personnel policy. Finally, a consolidated budget for the whole system would do more to achieve true co-ordination, avoid duplication and cost far less than the present tangle of co-ordinating mechanisms and units, often leading to the absurd phenomenon of "co-ordinators of co-ordinators". Margaret Anstee, (former UN under secretary-general), The Walled Garden, Knill, Nr Prestigne, Powys, UK

Decline part of UK's psyche

From Mr Fred Tuckman. Sir, Re Martin Wolf's article "End of relative decline" (Britain survey, June 14), it is unlikely that the relative decline has stopped. It rests deep in the UK's national psyche. Go back to one of the Hawthorne Experiments at Western Electric in the early 1930s. It was discovered that all groups adopt "pace" which is comfortable and justifiable to its members. I believe similar factors play a part in national actions but unconsciously so. All we hear and see of industrial activity on the continent suggests they operate with greater intensity than we do. They may work shorter hours, but while at it they are more focused, more intense. In their striving for quality they are less easily satisfied. In the fight for markets more ruthlessly determined. Mates at the work-bench will criticise one another freely, which here we only do with extreme reluctance. All of this makes the UK a more tolerant and pleasant place to live in. People from abroad like being here, but our relative standard of living slips. Can we do anything about this? Do we want to? Is it worth the price?

Fred Tuckman, European management consultant and adviser on public affairs, 6 Cumberland Road, Barnes, London SW13 9LX, UK

Winning the greatest respect

From Mr Edward Hadas. Sir, In your leader "All bull" (June 10), you imply that the Pope's pronouncements on matters of faith and doctrine are treated with unquestioning respect. The Fed may or may not move markets, but the Pope's influence on morals and belief, even among Catholics, seems fairly modest. The Pope brings in bigger crowds (it will be a while before a million fans greet Fed

chairman, Mr Alan Greenspan, in the Philippines), but those of us who feel more strongly about religion than finance can only wish that the average encyclical received a quarter of the respect given to the slightest Greenspan twitch. Edward Hadas, NatWest Markets, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3XT, UK

Government education and research funding factors in US job creation

From M.H. Barnes. Sir, In emphasising as much as she does the vital contribution of the private sector in the creation of high-tech jobs in the US ("The seedbed of job creation", June 10), Linda Bilmes does not give credit to what I believe is the second essential factor in this job creation, and that is the role of the federal

and state governments in long-term funding of educational and research establishments. The impact on the genesis and development of the biotechnology industry in California of the funding of biomedical research by the national institutes of health over many decades and the excellent research training given by

the various campuses of the University of California system was enormous. In a very real sense, the availability on the campuses of leading biomedical academics who turned entrepreneur was the immediate cause of the biotechnology revolution. The third crucial factor in the

development of the biotechnology industry in the US was the availability of venture capital, but that's another story! M.H. Barnes, 3 Brown Grove, Watford, Herts WD1 3RY, UK

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Man in the News · Gavin Casey

New chief sent to the Tower

George Graham on the mystery man in charge at the London Stock Exchange

The last two chief executives of the London Stock Exchange left in a hurry...

Mr Casey was not criticised by Department of Trade and Industry inspectors appointed to investigate the affair...

Finance, banking and venture capital. County went through a series of name changes and restructurings...

exchange staff loyalty insist he has already cracked one or two jokes. Others who have worked with him do not remember this facet of his character...

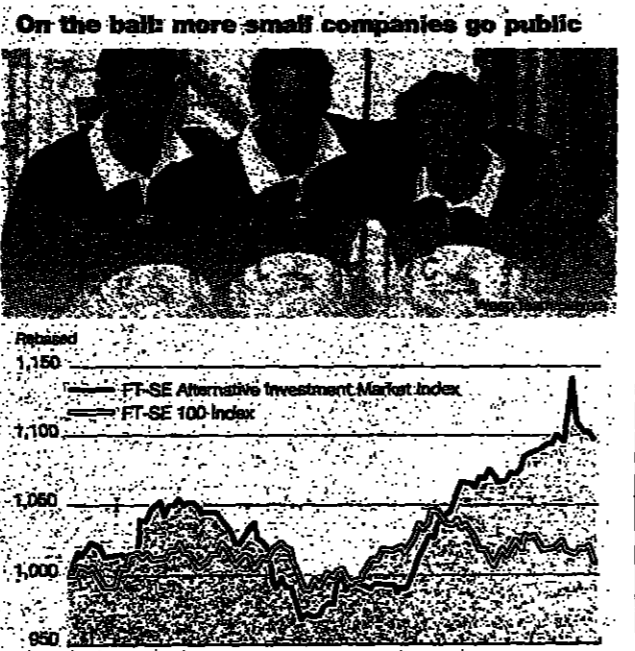
As one leading City figure put it, it took the hawkish former president Richard Nixon to persuade the US establishment to open relations with China...



Young markets sign up successful squads

Richard Gourlay and Christopher Price on the rise of Aim and its counterparts in Europe

Mr Avner Pdahtzur and Mr Paul Mendelsohn last month raised \$225,000 by selling shares in their chain of six dental surgeries...



On the bait: more small companies go public

Whitecross is one of 164 companies quoted on Aim which together have a market capitalisation of more than \$4.3bn...

The exchange also generated an immediate supply of companies for Aim by abolishing the facility which allowed direct trading between buyers and sellers...

Launched in February, the market has attracted only seven companies to date. But French investors are showing interest...

Market practitioners and the City Group for Smaller Companies (Cisoc), a pressure group, are particularly impressed by the Stock Exchange's response...

The Nouveau Marché de Paris decided last year to set up the Nouveau Marché for companies with high growth potential but with an inadequate record for the main market...

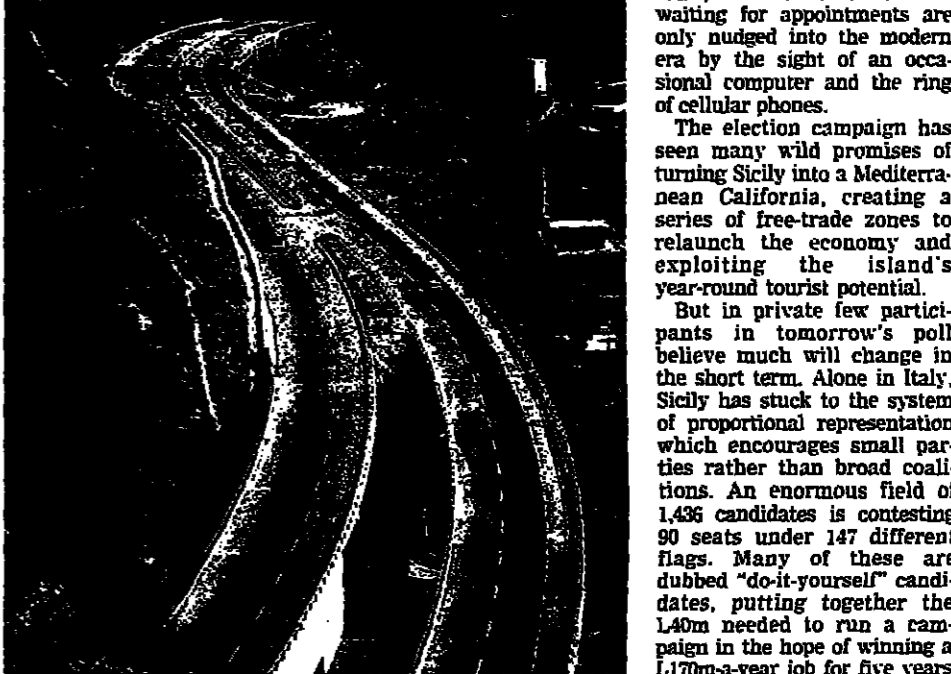
Backed by a private consortium of US and European investment bankers, stockbrokers and venture capitalists, Easdaq is now actively seeking companies and testing its trading and settlement systems...

Sicily goes to the polls after a sorry era of misgovernment, says Robert Graham

An island engulfed by troubled waters

The dome of the cathedral at Noto, one of the jewels of Sicilian architecture, looks as though it has been hit by a bomb...

an issue because it fuels the demands of the populist Northern League for northern Italy to break away.



Still incomplete: the Messina to Catania motorway

The outgoing parliament will be remembered as one of the most incompetent and corrupt Sicily has had, observes Mr Paolo Angelieri, regional minister of the Party of the Democratic Left...

blame for the absence of investment. Large amounts of public money for developing the economy, including EU funds, are not spent.

Such a sorry record might have gone unnoticed had Sicily not been dragged into the national debate. The misgovernment of Sicily has become

Ironically 50 years later, it is the north playing the separatist tune. And Sicily and the south more than ever need the linkage with the central government.

The smack of a firm Labour government

Some fear the worthy policy aims of the party cannot be reconciled, says John Kampfner

Curfew for young children? Crackdown on aggressive beggars, noisy neighbours and fraudulent benefit claimants. Education for parents in disciplining their offspring...



With such disciplinary views, Labour has stolen a march on the government in law-and-order territory that was once the preserve of the Tories...

environmental issues in which stiff regulation is needed - such as pollution, noise and crime - from personal morality, he says.

Mr Blair and his allies insist that under their leadership a Labour government would enhance both individual freedoms and a sense of community...

Weekend FT

Chrystia Freeland explains why Russians who do not like Boris Yeltsin are prepared to grit their teeth and vote for him

A nation groans under the lash of democracy



Nurtured by a miserable climate and a brutal history, Russian culture has always boasted a powerful masochist streak.

Anna Karenina, the country's favourite literary heroine, ends her adventures by throwing herself in front of a train. Khovanshchina, the Mussorgsky opera which has been the Bolshoi's biggest hit this year, comes to a terrible finale with most of the cast immolated on the pyre of a burning church. Even the nation's drinking habits - straight shots of vodka, in rapid succession - combine pain with pleasure.

In a canny move which most pundits think will help bring him victory in tomorrow's presidential poll, Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, has found a way of marrying this gloomy national tradition with the usually more light-hearted art of political campaigning.

During the past few weeks, Yeltsin's advertisers have blitzed the country's television screens with close-ups of prominent Russians and ordinary Ivans who share one important trait: they really do not want to vote for the incumbent president.

General Boris Gromov, who presided over the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan and was one of the earliest and most bitter critics of the Kremlin's decision to send troops to Chechnya, describes Yeltsin's war there as "a disaster". Georgy Zhukov, an actor and former political prisoner, says that Yeltsin's coterie has robbed the country.

But, after reciting the president's faults, these reluctant Yeltsinites wring their hands and come to a unanimous conclusion. However bad Yeltsin may be, he is better than his communist opponents and, on these grounds, the televised parade of presidential supporters has been urging Russians to back him.

Only tomorrow's poll will show whether Yeltsin's "lesser-of-two-evils" argument has won over a majority of Russian voters, but, during the past few months, it has already had a

revolutionary effect on the country's political and economic elite. After months of agonised vacillation, Russia's most prominent citizens have mostly swallowed a wide variety of past slights and come out in favour of the incumbent.

The president's new fan club includes men Yeltsin has publicly humiliated, like Anatoly Chubais, the privatisation tsar who was rudely dismissed from the cabinet in January. It has been joined by men who have urged Yeltsin not to run, such as Yegor Gaidar, a former prime minister who said this spring that a Yeltsin candidacy

Kovalyev is one of the few prominent Russian liberals who is not supporting Yeltsin's bid for re-election

would hand the Kremlin to the communists. Its ranks have even been swelled by a woman who has lost a son and a husband to Yeltsin's armies, Alla Dudayeva, widow of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen separatist leader who was reported to have died in a Russian attack earlier this year.

One man, however, has refused pointedly to join the Yeltsin bandwagon. Sergei Kovalyev, a biologist turned human rights campaigner who spent seven years in prison and three years in Arctic exile for his opposition to the communist regime, has today again become a dissident. Although he was one of Yeltsin's earliest backers when the president first rose to national power in 1990, Kovalyev is now one of the very few prominent Russian liberals who is not supporting the bid for re-election.

As a Soviet-era dissident, Kovalyev can voice his unorthodox opinion with a measure of political impunity: he is one man whom few contemporary

Russian politicians would dare accuse of naively underestimating the dangers posed by a communist comeback.

And indeed, Kovalyev readily admits that, in spite of occasional efforts to pose as a western European-style social democratic party, the communist bloc led by Gennady Zyuganov represents a threat to Russia.

In the event of a communist victory, Kovalyev says: "Everything is as clear as a blueprint: there will be state regulation of prices, there will be an effort to nationalise property, there will be open and hidden inflation, shortages will again appear and, as a result, there will again be queues and there will be ration cards." He adds: "There will also be pressure on the press, there will be some measure of more broad repressiveness."

Not a pretty picture. But, in the opinion of Kovalyev, a member of parliament who is often described as the "conscience" of Russia, the dangers of a communist victory are offset by one important constraint: "The communists today are not capable of creating any lasting sort of stability, they will very quickly precipitate their own downfall."

By contrast, and here Kovalyev ventures into what he admits is heretical ground, Russia's leading human rights campaigner fears that a Yeltsin victory might be even more of a disaster than a communist triumph because with a second term Yeltsin could create a regime which would be both flawed and stable.

Kovalyev's worry is that, as a second term president, Yeltsin could preside over "a stabilisation which is extraordinarily dangerous" of a government which "routinely lies", which is pursuing a bloody war in Chechnya, which has been quietly clamping down on civil rights and whose leading functionaries break the law with the carefree

impunity of the Soviet era.

"The country has become a strange sort of chimera, it has a communist system of governance, under anti-communist slogans," Kovalyev argues. "In some respects, this system is more dangerous than the communist system. It is a very hypocritical system, a very lying system, a very false system and the worst thing is that instead of discrediting communism it discredits democracy, because while its methods are Soviet, its slogans are democratic."

There is something distinctly old-fashioned about Kovalyev's attachment to concepts such as truth and democracy, a noble but somehow jarring echo of the earnest morality of the Soviet era human rights movement which seems out of place on the buzzing streets of Moscow, where the former Soviet Union's grey uniformity has given way to an entrepreneurial riot of colour.

In the euphoric years of perestroika, when 70 years of communist dictatorship began to crumble, political idealism was briefly trendy. Long-haired dissident writings, such as Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*, appeared in print for the first time and were read voraciously. Tens of thousands of demonstrators attended pro-democracy rallies across the country in a wave of national mobilisation which reached a climax in the summer of 1991, when thousands of protesters massed outside the White House on the banks of the Moskva river to bloc a hardline communist coup.

But, just as the hero of that demonstration, the bold leader of the Russian federation who defied the plotters from atop a tank, has settled into the more routine pleasures of ruling the country from the comfort of the Kremlin, most of his supporters have traded the heady delights of democratic

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Joe Rogaly

A little ethnic confusion

We need to contemplate why some groups flourish and others do not

Help! We are about to talk of race, and I am tongue-tied. Well, almost. I am certain that racial bigotry is lethal, but what about ethnic pride? Is there not something to be gained from the latter? The question goes round and round. We sages are clear-headed, long-sighted, secure in our omniscience, always right, ever willing to listen to the voice of reason. If you believe that, I have a nice line in city-centre bridges to sell you at a special price. No, the truth is, I am confused.

Standard liberalism, melting-pot multiculturalism, denial of difference, universal detribalisation, are all fine and dandy, but how do you behave if you know not who on earth you are? Against that, we can be certain that aggressive assertion of racial or ethnic identity can lead to dreadful horrors.

You recall the infamous examples: the German-engineered Holocaust of 1938-45, or the recent massacres in Rwanda and former Yugoslavia. They head a gruesome list, to which we must this week add the burning of black churches in the southern United States.

If the murderous 20th century has taught us any lesson it is that tribal hostility kills. Yet humans need a sense of belonging. Increasing numbers

of us are living without the bulwarks of religion or stable families, unconstrained by absolute values, rootless in cities, slaves to the cult of the individual. If on top of all that we are neither Welsh nor Kurd, we have no anchor.

It is just possibly a case of drifters vs the rooted communities, with the floating population of lone individuals set to lose. Tribes whose members know who they are should prosper. Take California's newly arrived Koreans and other east Asians. They are rapidly advancing, making a place for themselves. Perhaps some of their economic success is a consequence of their respect for education.

Adherence to the traditional family, ethnic cohesion, pride in their own tribe, may have made their contribution. Whoever there are newcomers with the requisite traditions, the growth-effect lasts for at least a generation.

The equivalent community in Britain is Indian. This is a go-go element, yeast in the island mix. Britain's Indian population numbered 840,000 in 1991, according to an analysis of the 1991 census published by the government's new Office for National Statistics (ONS) this week. That could bring it close to 1m by, say, the end of the decade, although it is not rising on an inexorable curve. Call the

total millennium population 55m and you have something approaching 2 per cent of the people of Britain originating in India.

Did I say go-go? Unlike most other ethnic groups, Indians are almost as likely as whites to be in employment, although the Chinese score highest in this league. But then there are just 137,000 Chinese people in Britain. They also top the

Indians are coherent, upwardly mobile, a new treasure for Britain

table on self-employment, as you might expect, with Indians next. Yet more Indians buy their houses than anyone else. Their owner-occupancy rate is 80 per cent, against 60 per cent for the whites and Chinese.

In common with other south Asians (that is, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis), Indians live with their families and extended families. They get married before having babies. The community is a mosaic of linguistic and religious groups. Yet many of them

"share a set of values, beliefs, aspirations and a clear sense of identity", according to one of the authors in the ONS report. They seek to better themselves. They are more likely than whites to be in the professional classes. Individuals vary, but as a group they are coherent, upwardly mobile, successful, a new treasure for Britain.

Other groups of new Britain are given less favourable ratings by the ONS editor. In spite of their structured lives, Pakistanis are likely to boast fewer qualifications than Indians; Bangladeshis are the least well-prepared for advancement. Among other migrants, blacks from Africa, mostly students or their offspring, are rich in academic prizes.

Young Caribbean black men suffer "dramatically" high rates of unemployment; their sisters tend to pass more exams, and get more jobs. To me, this last point may be explained by the propensity of black mothers to keep their daughters at home doing their schoolwork. Their sons are not so easily controlled.

That's enough. We cannot regurgitate 246 pages of analysis here. The significance of the ONS report lies in its attempt to present facts about ethnic groups residing within Britain. You get a feel for the discrimination in employment endured by some of them, but

little is said about the reality of daily life for non-white Britons. Outside certain areas many of them live in danger of being abused or attacked. Yet it is not my purpose to rehearse that sorry tale today.

What we need to contemplate is why some groups flourish and others do not. Certainly there are plenty of theories about how Asian culture in, say, Singapore, China and Japan, contributes to economic development. It may be that a loyalty to the old country, or at least to its social customs, gives inner strength to migrant peoples who you might have thought would be weakened by stress. If so, we in the industrialised west face a problem. Every day brings down another piece of the social structures that formerly sustained us. We are becoming nations of anonymous blobs in beehive cities. No wonder some of us behave badly.

Britain is committed to predominantly Christian religious education in schools, under a law whose spirit is rarely observed in practice. We do not favour teaching in languages other than English. We are both prescriptive and tolerant, aware of the advantages of a common national curriculum, bemused by the ideas of Moslem or Jewish schools. Like the US, we are multi-racial, but ethnically confused.

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PERSPECTIVES

The Nature of Things

Danger in a little yellow box

A simple home test can detect the UK's biggest source of radioactivity. Andrew Derrington reports

When I was on holiday in Cornwall two weeks ago, large envelopes from the National Radiological Protection Board dropped through the letter-box of the cottage where I was staying. Inside were two little yellow plastic boxes with instructions to place one in the living room and one in the bedroom and to send them back to NRPB in three months' time.

The yellow boxes contain strips of a special plastic that detects radon. Radon is a colourless odourless gas, the heaviest of the noble gases which include helium, neon and argon. Like them it is chemically inert, but unlike them it is radioactive. It is produced from the decay of Uranium 238 and Thorium 232, both of which occur naturally at low levels in many different types of rock, including granites, limestones and shales.

Because radon is a gas, it can seep out of the rock, and into our homes via the subsoil. Radon itself

is fairly harmless because it is chemically inert. "You just breathe it in and breathe it out again," says Gerry Kendall of the NRPB. However, it decays by way of a chain of radioactive "daughter" elements (including polonium, lead and bismuth) to produce stable isotopes of lead.

Because they are produced as isolated atoms, the radioactive daughters of radon are extremely reactive chemically. They form complexes that attach to microscopic dust particles; these can lodge in the lung where they deliver their radiation to maximum effect.

The dangers of radon have been known for much longer than the chemistry. In the 16th century Agricola wrote: "Miners are sometimes killed by the pestilential air they breathe... their lungs rot away." He was right: in recent years 12 studies have shown a link between radon levels and the rate of lung cancer in miners.

Although most of the damage is not done by radon but by its radioactive daughter elements, the chemistry of the radioactive progeny is complicated and variable. So the best way to predict the level of hazard is to measure radon itself, Kendall says.

Like several of its daughters, radon emits alpha particles - each composed of two protons and two neutrons. Alpha particles do not penetrate far but they are the heaviest and arguably the most damaging form of ionising radiation. Inside the yellow box they make tiny scratches in the plastic. The scratches can be enhanced chemically and counted by an optical reader to measure the radon levels over three months.

NRPB has already processed yellow boxes from more than 240,000 homes in national surveys of England, Scotland and Wales. The results are impressive. If you are

worried about radiation, forget nuclear weapons tests, cosmic rays and discharges from power stations. Radon delivers four times as much radioactivity as all of them put together.

Even in London, where radon levels are among the lowest in the UK, it is responsible for about half the environmental radiation. It delivers about the same annual dose to a London householder as a nuclear power station worker would receive at work. Of course neither dose is thought to be hazardous, but in high radon areas, which include parts of Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Derbyshire

and Northamptonshire, it is a different story.

As a result of its previous surveys, NRPB has established an "action level" of 200 becquerels per cubic metre of air (a becquerel corresponds to one atomic disintegration per second) and identified the areas of the country where 1 per cent of the houses exceed this level. The present NRPB survey focuses on these affected areas. It aims to identify all the homes that exceed the action level and to recommend remedial measures. In some parts of Devon and Cornwall, more than 30 per cent of houses are above the action level.

Kendall says radon "is a vastly greater hazard than the things people worry about". If you live all your life in a house at the action level you have a one in 30 chance of dying of lung cancer, he says. The risk is higher for smokers (one in 10) than for non-smokers (one in 100). But even if you live in an affected area, there is no reason to panic. The radon test is free* and measures can easily be taken to reduce levels if they are high.

The basic approach is to prevent soil gas from entering the living area of the house - by underfloor ventilation, by simply sealing all the holes or by installing an under-floor "radon sump" which reverses the net flow of gas from the under-floor space into the house.

And after the work has been done, you can get another set of yellow boxes for a free re-test.

* Contact Radon Survey, NRPB, Chilton, Didcot, OX11 0RQ. The author is professor of psychology at the University of Nottingham.

Minding Your Own Business

Builder of shoes steps out and up

Grania Langdon-Down meets a woman who turned redundancy from a footwear firm into a virtue

Making Rosemary Dartnell redundant was the biggest favour anyone could have done her. She had always wanted to run her own business designing shoes and had even drawn up eight or nine business plans. But her job as buying director for a big shoe retailer had always kept her too busy to take them any further.

When she first learnt of the redundancy, she was angry and felt badly treated. But when the shock wore off, Dartnell, 38, realised her opportunity and decided she would not work for anyone else again. "It was the push I needed," she said.

She had started in the shoe trade aged 18 when she joined Carvela, part of the Lotus chain, as a trainee manager in her home town of Southampton. Within 18 months, she took charge of her first shop.

On her 30th birthday in 1988, she was appointed buying director for Carvela, and continued in that job when the company merged with Kurt Geiger three years later. But in June 1993, she lost her job.

"Three months later, I started a specialist footwear consultancy, Rosemary Dartnell Associates, with my friend Kate Jordan, who is an accountant, as company secretary. "I had about £40,000 from my redundancy and savings. The plan was to set up RDA so I could earn money as a consultant pretty well straight away with few overheads," Dartnell explained.

Florentine, her own shoe design label, took longer to develop. The aim was to create an image for the label that would appeal to sophisticated consumers, aged from 30 to 50, who were prepared to spend between £60 and £90 on a classic shoe.

"There was a lot to get right



Rosemary Dartnell: "Some shoes are art forms but who would ever wear them?"

made to order but Dartnell keeps up to 4,000 pairs in stock at any time - even though it ties up capital of between £50,000 and £70,000 - to meet extra orders.

In between seasonal bursts of designing and selling, Dartnell slots in consultancy work, which brought in about £50,000 last year. "I now need to free up time to plot our next moves. We are developing a computer system with a fairly sophisticated

accountancy package, which will cost about £8,000, and will probably take on someone to help with the administration soon," she said.

"Turnover is now just over £500,000 representing about 30,000 sales a year. Sales of the winter 1996 range are up 15 per cent on last year and my plan is that after five years, sales will have doubled," she said.

Dartnell's biggest outlay is £30,000 a year on advertising

Letter from Johannesburg

Youth still in the vanguard

These days there is an unmistakably modern character to the plight of young people in Soweto, the sprawling South Western Township, created by the apartheid regime to be the biggest labour camp in Africa.

BMWs and cellular phones are not unusual sights on the mostly unmappped backstreets. Small businesses compete to clean the dust out of private swimming pools, and you can even join the National party in one of the few shopping malls.

Tomorrow is a public holiday. Exactly 20 years ago 100 Soweto pupils died in protests against Afrikaans as the language of instruction. Their resistance to the police, the army and apartheid's version of their national history was to last 15 years, propelling South African youth to the forefront of the liberation movement.

The slogan "Education before Education" which launched the 1976 uprising, has been superseded by non-racial, multi-lingual teaching. And the customary advice of President Nelson Mandela to unsuspecting children all over the world is a stern "Go to school".

Like their peers in the developed world, Sowetan youths are ambitious, conscious of the revolution in their country, and eager to prosper. Unlike their western counterparts, they are convinced their world will treat them more kindly than it did their parents.

Such optimism is born from the ruins of racial oppression, which officially ended with the all-race election of April 1994. But it is tempered by reality: the perils that worry parents everywhere reach extreme proportions in South Africa.

Jobs are scarce: only 7 in every 100 school leavers will find formal employment this year. Their numbers are rising, with half the national population under 18.

Diversions are many and dangerous: crime is epidemic, HIV infection has risen by more than 80 per cent this year to affect about a per cent of the population, and narcotics are in abundant supply.

Despite, or perhaps because of, this rapid change, black youths remain as highly politicised today as in 1976. They are generally portrayed as angry, indignant and a potential threat to South Africa's newfound stability - a powerful argument for building national solidarity. Deputy president Thabo Mbeki, the likely heir to Mandela's throne, often suggests that "When the poor rise,

they will rise against us all". Thabo Maseko, a member of the ANC's Youth League, agrees: "The youth are the most militant, because of their energies and because they are impatient. They will become a threat if that energy is not channelled."

But so far, South Africa's youth have taken the lessons of the country's political transition to heart. Much as Soweto has risen above apartheid origins to become a uniquely sophisticated township, its youth are a kind of African vanguard. Last year, a pan-African survey by advertising agency McCann-Erickson found unanimous support for the principles of negotiation, cultural and racial tolerance, and the rejection of violence among young people. Mandela would be consoled by the finding that youths are "highly preoccupied" with education, widely seen as "the only reliable means to escape poverty".

With unemployment among township blacks aged 15-30 running at 50 per cent, many who have escaped poverty have also chosen to escape Soweto. Like their country, its 3m inhabitants have one foot in the first world. Unlike the poor in other parts of Africa, most have seen, if not tasted, the spoils of a more affluent culture - and young people aspire to share in it.

To this day, the aspirational Sowetan mother of my friend Milton has not forgiven her wayward son for spending money intended for his ballroom dancing class on learning to play tennis instead. Happily, Milton has overcome this social handicap and joined the exodus of many black professionals by moving 40km to a new home in Joburg.

Like many emigrants, he pines for aspects of the lifestyle they left behind. Consequently, the youngest of the new black middle class spend much of their leisure time driving from the metropolitan suburbs to the township.

At weekends, Sowetan youths throw hectic street parties fuelled by "cell phones" - their name for assorted quartets of liquor sold at inflated prices to fund the events. All 11 of South Africa's official languages are spoken in Soweto. But few can understand the secret language of the hi-jackers, gangsters and drug dealers who flock to the same parties. And nobody knows how many are too young to vote.

Mark Ashurst

Continued from Page 1

A nation under the lash of democracy

revolution for the diligent pursuit of more material, individual, dreams.

These post-communist values are neatly captured by a Yeltsin campaign clip targeting those voters for whom the struggle for democracy has been eclipsed by the quest to be cool.

To the throbbing beat of rock music, Russian television screens display the western fashion items Yeltsin's reforms have made available to a prosperous minority: baseball caps and basketball shoes. In a dizzying video montage, these objects of desire are contrasted with the ugly accoutrements of the Soviet era and of today's impoverished majority: a tattered Russian fur hat, turned upside down to collect alms from passers-by and a battered pair of Russian work-boots.

In his thick, politburo style

glasses and ill-cut suit - even the communists are better dressed - it is easy to dismiss Kovalyev as an irrelevant, and perhaps slightly pathetic, critic of a president smart enough to appeal to Russia's young voters in their own language of baseball caps and basketball shoes. That is certainly the verdict of many of Yeltsin's most sophisticated supporters, who see Kovalyev's stern political judgment as an anachronistic hold-over from the stark moral choices the Soviet regime imposed on each of its subjects.

Kovalyev's attitude is inappropriate today, many of Russia's most brilliant political scientists argue, because the Kremlin's wild, fitful, ambitious efforts to create democracy and a market economy unavoidably involve compromise and backsliding. All that really matters, Yeltsin's grudging backers believe, is to continue to build some version of capitalism, and democracy will

inevitably follow. Give the Russian masses baseball caps and eventually they will want freedom as well.

But Kovalyev derides this automatic coupling of markets and democracy as economic romanticism. The economic romantics, says Kovalyev, think something like this: "Let us introduce market reforms, we will have a market economy and it will automatically create democracy... and all of it will simply follow from competition and so forth and presto! you will have a democratic political system."

Kovalyev thinks this approach is naive. "A market economy can, without a doubt, operate in a totalitarian or authoritarian regime," he says, and in his opinion that is the direction in which Yeltsin's Russia is heading.

Ironically, Yeltsin's brilliantly planned and executed election campaign has given die-hard former dissidents such as Kovalyev more grounds

than ever for attacking the president's democratic credentials.

The mass media, including privately owned television channels and newspapers which had tried to build up a reputation for objectivity before the campaign season, have become a pro-Yeltsin chorus almost as biased as, albeit more sophisticated than, their Soviet-era predecessors.

Senior members of Yeltsin's campaign team openly boast of placing fake scare stories about the communists in complaint, usually liberal, newspapers, and regional governors have explicitly instructed local journalists to run Yeltsin campaign releases verbatim.

Opposition candidates are routinely subject to petty bureaucratic harassment: halls they have booked are withdrawn at the last minute; they are barred from holding meetings in public; their retinue is housed in the worst hotel in town.

Absurdly, these little humiliations are dealt out not only to Zyuganov, Yeltsin's only serious rival, but also to politicians such as Mikhail Gorbachev, whose impact on tomorrow's poll is expected to

Kovalyev argues that the democrats' compromise today will destroy them

be marginal at best, but who, as the face of perestroika, some would say merits more respectful treatment during his first run at elected office.

All of these pre-election violations could be overshadowed by a crime everyone - from Yeltsin's staunchest supporters to his most determined opponents - is sure the Kremlin

will try to commit if the need and opportunity arise: falsifying the results of the vote. Gen Pavel Grachev did nothing to increase public faith in the probability of the regime when he announced last week that, in early overseas voting, Russia's sailors had unanimously backed Yeltsin. Under Russian law, the ballot boxes were not even to have been opened until tomorrow night.

So great is the cynicism about tomorrow's voting that, at a gala banquet during a recent summit meeting of central and eastern European heads of state, the Ukrainian president shared the following joke with his Polish counterpart. The day after the polls, the chief electoral officer calls Yeltsin, saying he has both good news and bad news. The bad news is that Zyuganov has won 55 per cent of the vote. But the good news is that Yeltsin has won 65 per cent.

For many of Russia's democratic politicians, watching

Chess No 1, 452 (pt. The game score: 1 R6 Cx7 7 R6c4 Kx5 3 Cx5i Qx5 sc4c4a. Instead 1... R8d4 (threat Cx1-h4 mate) wins for Black.

Keep the

Bruce Clark

B

PERSPECTIVES

The French actress who won't play safe

Nigel Andrews talks to Isabelle Huppert, one of Europe's leading cinematic stars. He finds a woman who makes a virtue out of silence

Radiant in strawberry blonde hair and grey trouser suit, Isabelle Huppert strode into the National Theatre restaurant, whisked me from the table near the bar where I was waiting - "It's too noisy" - and sat us down near the doorway. I foresaw problems and they came. After 20 minutes what seemed like an entire membership of the women's institutes of south London entered and sat down at the nearest table. "Oh my God," muttered Huppert as the air shrieked with voices and scraped with chair-legs. Soon the clang of cutlery was added. Yet France's leading screen actress went on to give me a masterclass in barely broken concentration. Two hours away from her 35th performance on stage as Schiller's Mary Stuart, Huppert had survived worse cacophonies than this: notably from first-night critics who railed at her imperfect grasp of English speech and intonation. "It's not pleasant reading such things," she says. "But a performance changes during a run and the audience has been on my side. I couldn't be oblivious to the bad reviews, but I think some of them may be a case of..." She pauses. "Xenophobia?" I ask. "A little bit. Maybe. Yes."

Madame Bovary Huppert has specialised in a kind of rarefied victimhood. In early films especially the eyes rarely blinked, the wide mouth was a down-turned moue and the pale face was animated more by its freckles than by any changing expressions. She was European cinema's Rorschach test. Audiences loved her. More and more over time, though, other Hupperts have stolen into the mother-identity. She was a skittish manhunter in Pialat's *Loulou*. She lit up Chabrol's *La Cerimonia* as a prattling village gossip turned murderer. And long before either she was an enchanting, impulsive presence, cast as an immigrant hooker in that great Hollywood cause célèbre, *Essence of Gato*. When I tell her I love this film she says "Good on you! It honours you!" For her, Michael Cimino's epic was a bold bid to bring European movie values to an America that did not or would not understand them, at least when applied to its own beloved form the western. Hence, the rejection by both critics and public of a \$44m movie whose failure broke a studio. "I think the film was deeply and violently against certain American beliefs about its own country," says Huppert. "It was against the idealism of the conquest of the west. Also in form it was so unclassical. Cimino talked very well about it for him it was like a dream, you could think of the whole story as coming out of the hero Kris Kristoferson's imagination. I love the film, it's so poetic."



Isabelle Huppert: 'The more emotional I am, the more I speed up. Maybe I should slow down more'

You always think magical moments can happen only once, yet as an actress you're able to do it over and over. But isn't the repetitiveness irksome? In cinema you have to repeat individual takes *ad infinitum*. In the theatre it's whole performances. But none is the same as another, insists Huppert, as she has found again on *Mary Stuart*. "It's so mysterious why you have such different collective reactions. One night they laugh at a line, another they're silent. One night they clap right away at the end, the next they wait. "At the same time an audience can be completely abstract, like a black hole. I feel completely different depending on whether I can see the audience or the lights block them from me. I'm very anxious when I cannot see them. It's like what they say about jealousy in love. If you see the person you have made you jealous you are somehow less insecure, more comforted. It's the familiarity."

So on the French stage she has favoured avant-garde directors like Robert Wilson and Peter Zadek who often light the spectators as well as the actors. And a Paris production of *A Doll's House* directed by Deborah Warner is planned which may also go against the traditional proscenium grain. On screen, too, Huppert has never settled for safe choices. She has worked with every innovative and influential French director, including those great Nouvelle Vague twins Chabrol and Godard. Although their working methods differ - Chabrol scripts, Godard doesn't - Huppert values both because they let her create her character. "On *Every Man For Himself* Godard came to Montana when I was working on *Heaven's Gate*, took me out to lunch and told me just one sentence about my role. 'She has the face of suffering.' That was enough. I loved that idea alone."

For Chabrol she has played a whole gallery of anti-heroines from a poisoner (*Violette Nozière*) to a wartime abortionist (*L'Histoire d'Une Femme*) to the multiple murderer of *La Cerimonia*. With this director, too, she is expected to join up the dots herself. "I had a letter about the new role he is writing for me to shoot in November. He said, 'We really don't know anything at all about the character.' And he knows that's exactly what I want."

Moviegoers will next see Huppert in a film of Goethe's *Elective Affinities*, directed by the Taviani brothers. I saw it at Cannes and express my misgivings to her. Good as the actors are, isn't this deracinated costume movie - German novel, French cast, Italian directors

- a nasty taste of where European cinema is now going? The pudding era. Huppert leaps in. "I haven't seen the film yet, but I didn't feel a contradiction in doing it. It's a universal story, it's not rooted in Germany. And you know, for years there has been a tradition of exchange and co-production in Europe - think of Visconti using American and English actors - yet all of a sudden people raise this Euro-pudding thing." Yet France in recent times, I say, has not been so indifferent to frontiers that it welcomes Hollywood into its land. Witness *Gattaca*. "You have to be subtle about Gattaca," she says. "Like everyone else I love American cinema. It's so easy to be brim and insular and take an anti-Hollywood stance. But it's not that. It is simply for protection. How many French films do you see in England? How many in Germany? How many German films are being made in Germany?" "You have to be realistic if you don't want the whole world showing only American films. We love Woody Allen. We love Scorsese. But we are reacting to a situation where an American film is shown in 50 cinemas across France while French films have difficulty being shown at all." I begin to feel guilty about getting Huppert hot up about film politics as the clockhands move nearer to *Mary Stuart*. Soon she will descend to her dressing-room, slap on the make-up, exclude unwanted visitors - "It's important to be lonely for the hour before" - and then face the lights and the minor but insistent turbulence of stage fright. None of this sounds very tempting to an outsider. So why be an actress? "It's funny. As I was coming to the theatre today I asked myself that. I'm not sure, but I came up with this answer: it's just to be silent. That sounds contradictory, because obviously acting means going through words. But it's some one else's words, so for me acting has a lot to do with keeping oneself secret. The more you say about someone else through their words, the less you are able to say about yourself." "I was thinking about this because I have been silent all day and I was thinking, oh what a relief. I'm so happy that I don't have to talk to anyone, just because I have this work to do tonight." Except for me, I point out. "Yes, except for this one hour!"

Keeping the faith on the Mount of Moses

Bruce Clark cares about an enclave that survived Crusaders and Saracens

Before he felt the calling, Father Paul worked as a groom for the greatest horse trainer in Australia. His mild, grey-bearded face still lights up when a visitor arrives from Ireland with some gossip about horseflesh. But these days, camels are the only quadrupeds he ever sees at St Catherine's monastery, high up in the stark, awe-inspiring beauty of Egypt's Mount Sinai. In the blazing, bone-dry heat of the desert, which consumes some things very quickly and preserves others almost indefinitely, it seems only a twinkling of an eye since AD560 when the monastery's towering granite walls were constructed by Emperor Justinian. Nor does it feel as though more than a few moments have elapsed since the execution, about the same time, of the monastery's most famous work of art: a startling image of Christ Pantocrator, the Ruler of the Universe, made in Constantinople by the encaustic method of icon-painting - molten wax was poured on to wood. Neither the colours nor the icon's triumphant theological message - that Christ was entirely human and entirely divine - have dimmed in the slightest over the past 14 centuries. And this is only one of several thousand icons in the monastery's 10 chapels: of all the Byzantine religious paintings extant in the world, at least half are at St Catherine's. The surroundings, natural and man-made, would prompt the most prosaic of souls to follow the example of the desert fathers of the Church and ponder the metaphysical. "We're like the fishermen in the Gospel," says Father Paul, in his Sydney accent. "We have all had to abandon our fishing nets, our worldly engagements, whatever they were." Few visitors would guess at the previous enthusiasms of this gentle, black-robed figure as he escorts visitors around this fabulous desert fortress, built around a vigorously growing shrub that is acknowledged by Christians, Muslims and Jews as the burning bush seen by Moses. Like the 16 other members of

Exhibition dates and information

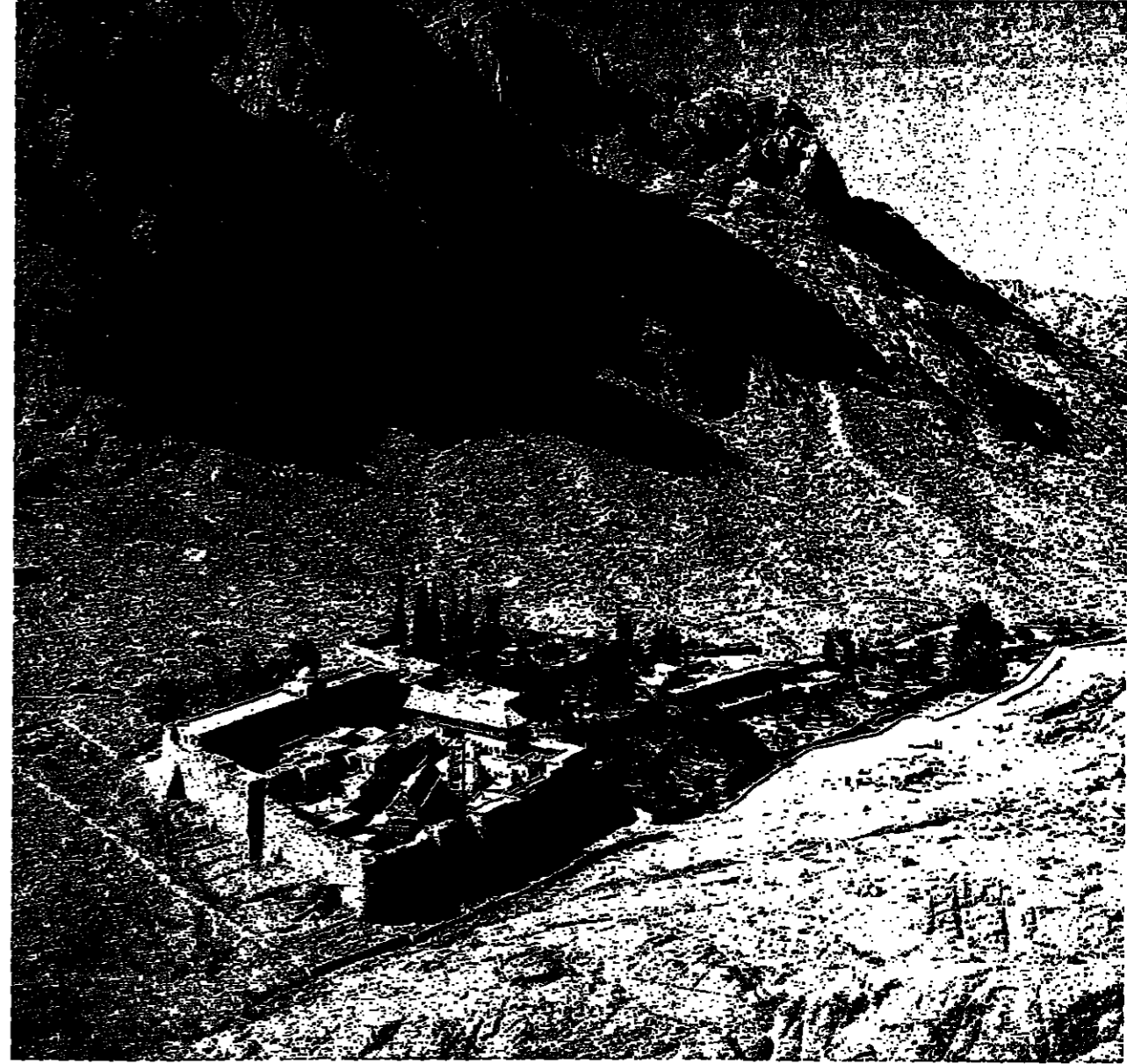
An exhibition entitled "St Catherine's: Past, Present and Future" will be on show at the Foundation for Hellenic Culture, 89 Brook Street, London, W1, from June 19 to July 19. (Opening hours: 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday, plus 8pm to 9pm on Wednesdays and 10.30am to 2pm on Saturdays.) For further information about St Catherine's Foundation can be obtained from its headquarters at 18 Curzon Street, London W1Y 7AB. Tel: 0171-485 3545.

this remarkable community, all but one of whom - a shy young man from Devon - are Greek. Father Paul is well used to rising at 4am every day to intone a three-hour service. Winter mornings can be freezing, and in the summer the mosquitoes are murderous. But there is a pleasant, bantering atmosphere as the brotherhood gathers on a Sunday morning for cups of grainy coffee. With an unself-consciousness that would put the average tongue-tied Anglican to shame, the chatter switches back and forward from the practical to the theological. Father Sofrony, who has the



St Gregory of Nazianus: frontispiece to a manuscript dating from 1136

shrewd eyes of the Peloponnesian farmer he was brought up to be, dispenses theological insights and tips on tree husbandry in an ebullient tone that hardly varies. "Nobody would ever become a monk if they knew how hard it was at times," he confides. "But you get moments of indescribable joy that make up for everything you have given up. It's all down to the grace of God." Yet St Catherine's, which ranks high among the spiritual and artistic glories of eastern Christendom, would not have survived a millennium and a half if the monks there had not known how to act in the world, even as they renounced its temptations. To this day, the monks speak with pride of the diplomatic skills which enabled their predecessors to maintain the warmest of relations with Islam and western Christendom, without compromising their own doctrinal integrity. Beside the tower of the 6th century basilica, with a bell donated by a Russian tsar, there is a minaret - not in active use but shown to every visitor as a symbol of peaceful co-existence between Muslims and Christians. Among the prize exhibits in a collection of parchment and papyrus manuscripts - their value and antiquity rank with the library of the Vatican - there is a copy of an affirmation by the Prophet Mohammed himself that he acknowledges the monks as guardians of the mountains of Moses. The Prophet's imprimatur helped, in turn, to guarantee the monks respect in the eyes of the nomadic Bedouin community whose lives have been closely intertwined with the monastery for centuries. Dealings with western Christendom have been equally subtle. Crusaders passed through, carving names and coat of arms on the walls of the refectory - but the monastery's relations with the Roman Catholic world have never descended into acrimony. The same spirit of ecumenical diplomacy will fill the air this week as The Ritz hotel in London accommodates an unusual visitor: Archbishop Damianos, a bustling Greek cleric who leads the community to which he has devoted more than half his 61 years. Along with the Prince of Wales, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop Damianos is co-patron of a foundation determined to save the monastery and the holy mountain on which it stands from its newest challenges. For the holder of such an ancient office, the Greek prelate is full of modern ideas: he longs to see the library digitally photographed and made available to scholars over the Internet. Projects like this require money and expertise, and that



St Catherine's monastery atop Mount Sinai: a site under threat from wealthy western visitors

is where a trip to London comes in. With the patrons' collective blessing, an exhibition of the monastery's icons, manuscripts and artefacts will be opened in London next week, in an effort to raise international awareness of the monastery's heritage and the challenges it now faces. The organisers are the St Catherine's Foundation, a committee of academics, churchmen and emigre Greeks, strongly supported by the Laisis ship-owning family, who have responded to an appeal by Prince Charles for an international effort to help preserve the religious community. Mount Sinai's apparently inhospitable climate has helped to preserve its status as a holy place for the three great monotheistic religions of the world. But it is under threat from an adversary that could succeed where Saracens and Crusaders failed - the risk of uncontrolled development. Carefully managed, the tourism that is beginning to reach the region in large proportions could be a boon to the living standards of the Bedouin, an important source of foreign exchange for the Egyptian exchequer. There are some disturbing signs, however. The nearby village of St Catherine's is beginning to sprawl uncontrollably, creating an immediate danger of polluting the ground waters. Already, some Bedouins have been poisoned by wells which their ancestors have always used. For reasons nobody understands, but possibly connected with an underground stream changing direction, salty water is seeping upwards through some of the monastery's foundations, visitors staying away at the granite. If this process continues, buildings which have stood for 1,400 years will start to fall. The advent of wealthy western visitors has also led to huge disparities of income among the Bedouin community, creating a risk that some will resort to violent crime or smuggling. To somehow balance the demands of tourism, ecology and social welfare, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency has entrusted a Brussels-based consultancy to carry out a five-year land management programme. But its success will be tough and go. So far, the monastery is able to cope, at a pinch, with up to 300 tourists a day. They stream through its gates to see the burning bush, the basilica and a few of the most important icons. Visitors with a serious interest in Orthodox Christianity are encouraged to pay more extended visits and venerate the relics of St Catherine which, from a religious point of view, are the monastery's greatest treasure. But the monastery has lost the asset which has been, for so many centuries, its greatest weapon against the depredations of the outside world - extreme remoteness. As recently as the 1960s, provisions had to be brought to the monastery by a three-day camel ride. Now cars can drive straight up to its towering walls and park beneath Justinian's cross. The world which Father Paul and his brothers abandoned is returning to haunt them - and nobody can tell whether today's desert fathers will survive the impact.

TRAVEL

Wild imaginings through China

Sarah Murray takes a train from Kunming to Hanoi

A clumsily orchestrated version of *Killing Me Softly* strains through antique speakers and into the cold concrete halls of Kunming's north terminal. It is an inauspicious start to a 30-hour train ride through China from Kunming to Hanoi, the Vietnamese capital - a journey that has only become possible since a recent warming of relations between the two long-standing enemies.

The dusty structure is tiny by the standards of China's great railway hubs. At Shanghai or Guangzhou the mass of humanity that swamps buildings the size of aircraft hangars is overwhelming, but here a clutch of dishevelled travellers shuffles into a waiting room, little bigger than a village hall and lined with orange plastic chairs.

Grand aspirations are in evidence all the same. Two vast paintings dominate the hall, one at each end. The first depicts a landscape crowded with the bizarre and particularly Chinese limestone mountains that inhabit the parchment scrolls of so many oriental watercolours. The second is of a fleet at sea - a strangely inappropriate image to find in Kunming, capital of Yunnan, a landlocked province in China's deep south-west.

But the passengers are not paying much attention to them. They are too busy tying up red plastic bags of oranges and bread bought for the journey and screwing down the

lids of jars containing what look like tiny snakes preserved in formaldehyde. These turn out to be large tea leaves that, topped up regularly with boiling water, provide a never-ending, bitter refreshment.

The station attendant looks down her nose at my tickets and, without so much as glancing at me, points to the plastic chairs. Well, at least I am in the right place. The dry smoke

Dozens of gorges and scores of tunnels later, we are in Hekou

of Chinese cigarettes fills the air, sunflower seed husks crunch underfoot and a small child starts to cry.

Unlikely as it seems, this building is the beginning of an 18-hour journey that is to descend almost 2,000 metres from the Yunnan Plateau into the Red River basin. Across more than 400km of this wild landscape the train will make its way to the remote border with Vietnam. Although the Chinese train stops at Hekou, the border town, the line continues. From Lao Cai, on the Vietnamese side, another 12 hours takes passengers to Hanoi.

From Vietnam, French colonial ambitions stretched as far

as Yunnan in the early 20th century when thousands of workers hammered out the Haiphong-Kunming railway line. More than 3,000 tunnels were bored and 150 bridges built in this massive feat of engineering through which the French hoped to gain influence in China - the British were following the same tactic, but through Burma.

The railway never secured the French their hoped-for riches. They found in Yunnan not wealth, but a sparsely populated and poor province.

Connections between the two nations stretch back further than the French era, however. For several periods in its history, Vietnam was occupied by China and the Confucian culture and Taoist religion remain in place today. Rail links between the two countries were severed in 1979 after a brief border dispute.

Out on platform two of Kunming North Terminal, old ties are being reformed. Train attendants wearing ceremonial red silk banners marking the new rail link welcome the passengers. The display seems a little excessive since there are only 11 carriages to the train and no Vietnamese to be seen at all. Passengers clamber aboard and settle into their seats. We are all given a small white disc which miraculously turns into a face flannel.

My carriage is a lively one. A sophisticated woman from Kunming (Indian cotton skirt, clean white shirt, fashionable sunglasses, patent leather



Restoring the link between two worlds: at Kunming's north terminal, a Chinese attendant decked with ceremonial red silk (above) welcomes passengers aboard a train bound for Hanoi. Rail connections between China and Vietnam - re-opened earlier this year amid official promises of increased trade between the two countries - have been closed since a brief war in 1979. Flattening along 24 hours later in a dilapidated train south of the border, northern Vietnam (left) appears poorer than its Chinese neighbour.

handbag) is joined by three rambunctious girls from Guangxi province (jeans, tight T-shirts, white plastic slippers covered in mud) speaking their local dialect, and a couple from Hangzhou (cosy auntie-type in a hand-knitted jumper accompanied by bright-eyed niece).

Wild imaginings are what this journey is all about. The fact that it is possible at all has Asian power brokers dreaming of tapping the mineral wealth of Yunnan, while Chinese entrepreneurs fantasise about what to buy with the profits made from trips to Vietnam to sell cheap underwear. Trade

between China and Vietnam is rising fast - it is expected to exceed \$1bn this year, double the 1995 figure, say Vietnamese officials. Direct rail links are certain to accelerate the process.

The woman from Kunming gets out a newspaper, the Guangxi girl slurps at their jars of tea, the auntie-type puts a new roll of film into the camera and, with a violent shutter, the train is off. Some 18 hours, dozens of astonishingly beautiful mountain gorges and scores of deep tunnels later, we are in Hekou, bleary-eyed and in need of something contain-

ing more caffeine than what's in those jam jars.

Hekou is a grim little nowhere town waking up with a jolt to the realities of global trade. Glass and steel banks offering multi-currency services rise up along a mud-soaked road. Glitzy hotels advertising fax services sit next to street markets where fried dumplings are dished out of a blackened wok into small pieces of newspaper. I did not actually see a man with a mobile phone riding in a rickshaw but I felt sure there was one around every corner. The best part is the border.

A small railway bridge forms the link between two of the world's last surviving communist powers. In the early morning drizzle Vietnamese women laden with vegetables stroll past young Chinese officials in ill-fitting uniforms. At the other end of the bridge are even younger-looking Vietnamese guards who clearly use the same tailor as their Chinese counterparts.

It is all rather quaint. Until you see the stream of giant trucks piled high with goods queuing up on the other side and realise that this is the start of something big.

Who is on the winning side of the new relationship becomes clear as the train steams towards Hanoi through an unbearably picturesque landscape where the sun beats down on figures bent double in green rice paddies. It may be pretty but it is visibly poorer than north of the border.

China's industrial might is bearing down on Vietnam. The streets of Hanoi bulge with Chinese food, textiles and porcelain. But after centuries of suspicion and hostility, both countries hope the railway will bring a new era of prosperity for all involved.

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HOW TO SPEND IT



From left (top): Rock band Oasis lies up on scooters - a sure sign that two-wheelers are a popular way of getting around again. And, the way we went: Actor Alfred Marks takes to the road on a Vespa in 1956. From left (below), a Typhoon 50 - its sport styling has proved very popular. And typical scenes from the 1950s when scooters became an essential mode of transport.

Historical photographs: Hulton Deutsch. Oasis photograph: Retna pictures.

Scooter commutes to designer comeback

Forget those slabby old Vespas and Lambrettas, writes Peter Knight. The new generation is a hot item that can see off the kami kaze cowboys

Virility cannot be measured by engine size alone. I do not deliver pizzas. My other bike's a Ducati Monster.

These are just some of the possible bumper stickers that could your boost confidence when jostling for position at the traffic lights with kami kaze motorcycle couriers while poised on your 50cc two-tone, future-retro styled Velocifero scooter with an engine note like a mad mosquito.

Perceived threats to your masculinity quickly evaporate as you scoot off ahead of some of the bigger bikes (acceleration is surprisingly rapid), park in spaces small enough for a bicycle, commute at a cost less than taking a bus, and get to your destination quicker than virtually any other form of transport.

Scooters are hot again. Forget the slabby lines of the old Vespas and Lambrettas that Uncle Kevin used to ride. The new scooters have been re-styled and re-engineered to please city commuters who want practicality with panache. And the hottest scooter for the design conscious is the Velocifero from Italjet, which looks like a Vespa on Ecstasy and comes in a wide selection of two-tone paint jobs.

The extraordinary thing about the Velocifero is that for around £1,700 investment you

get more attention than on a £12,000 Harley Davidson," says scooter commuter Martin Wilding, creative director of Black Cat, an advertising company in Richmond, Surrey. His other bike is a Philippe Starck-designed Aprilia Moto 6.5. The Velocifero is getting all the attention. Oasis, the rock band, ride them. And television presenter Jonathan Ross has ordered two of a special edition model, customised by shoe designer Patrick Cox in two-tone black and white with a snake-skin seat: one for Jonathan, one for his wife.

Scooters have always sold well in Italy, their spiritual home, where around 250,000 were bought last year. British sales in 1995 were just 6,292, as buyers have been put off by the Mod-tainted image. But this summer promises record sales for scooters everywhere as crowded streets and pollution change attitudes.

Piaggio, the Italian scooter giant, still sells the classic Vespa models - now 50 years old - as well as a range of modern scooters. Most notable is the sports-styled Typhoon, a bullet-shaped, fat-wheeled model which comes in three different engine sizes: 50cc, 80cc and 125cc.

Europeans bought 82,000 of the 50cc Typhoon model last year, underlining the popularity of the sports styling. Judicious use of moulded plastic and brighter colours, combined

with motorcycle style suspension and brakes, has produced a scooter that looks more macho than its predecessors. They also hold the road better. Automatic starters and gearboxes make them easier to ride. Press the starter button, twist the throttle and go. And quickly, too.

Italjet has taken the sports design to the extreme, maybe even a little too far. Their Formula 50 model looks like a diminutive Ducati with boy-racer Italian styling. Handling

with smaller manufacturers, such as Italjet, beginning to sell well.

"The scooter has had a resurgence which the moped has not. This has been almost exclusively due to design," says Richard Seymour of Seymour Powell, a design consultancy.

Seymour Powell has helped drag the former East German manufacturer, MZ, out of the Soviet dark ages with an award-winning design for its Skorpion model. The company is also helping an Indian/Japanese consortium design a scooter for the Indian market, where the emphasis is on durable practicality rather than sportiness.

In the trade, Scooters are known as "step-throughs", which means that you can mount the bike simply by stepping through it, rather than having to swing a leg over it. This has obvious benefits for riders who wear skirts or value the stitching on their Armani suits.

Scooters originally offered huge benefits over conventional motorcycles by protecting riders' legs from the rain and hiding oily engines under the body. There were also compartments in which to carry things. As with motorcycles, however, their popularity declined in the 1980s with the introduction of cheap small cars like the Mini and Fiat 500. Now, as congestion reaches

pariahs of the road. If not, the sheer practicality of scooters surely will.

"I've got three scooters and I love them. I can get to a meeting virtually anywhere in central London in 10 minutes wearing my suit. I park easily and I put the helmet under the seat," says Jack Gratton, managing director of Major Players, a recruitment agency based in Chelsea.

"I bought them mainly because I was fed up with traffic jams. I spend about £3 a

week on petrol and it saves me a fortune in cabs," he says. He has a number of other bikes as well, including a Ducati.

"I still get the same thrill riding the scooter as I do the other bikes. I'm a complete convert," Gratton says.

Neil Brown, joint owner of the Highly Sprung and Recline and Sprawl sofa shops in London, uses a scooter to visit his stores. "It's opened up a lot of London for me. You can go virtually as the crow flies," he says.

Scooter-makers clearly want to exploit the need for inexpensive city-friendly bikes and are working hard to overcome some of the market's resistance by reshaping the image. Part of this is reflected in the "sports" styling, but as Seymour points out, this is merely a step sideways in the evolution of the scooter.

The future could be electric. Piaggio has produced the ultimate environmentally sound model, the curiously named Zip & Zip. Only available in Italy, it has two engines - one a 50cc two-stroke with catalytic converter, the other an electric motor.

Riders can switch from one to the other, allowing them to enter traffic zones where the internal combustion engine is banned. It gives up to 25km on a single charge and you just plug it into the mains to recharge.

My other bike's definitely going to be a Zip & Zip.

Planners are finally beginning to see the benefits of two wheels rather than four

is surprisingly bike-like, with advanced suspension giving exhilarating cornering and disc brakes enabling a quick stop. The 16-year-olds will love it.

Piaggio's UK sales rose 28 per cent in 1995 and it now holds 21 per cent of the UK market for 50cc scooters. The rest is shared by a number of manufacturers - Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki and Peugeot -

with motorcycle style suspension and brakes, has produced a scooter that looks more macho than its predecessors.

They also hold the road better. Automatic starters and gearboxes make them easier to ride. Press the starter button, twist the throttle and go. And quickly, too.

Italjet has taken the sports design to the extreme, maybe even a little too far. Their Formula 50 model looks like a diminutive Ducati with boy-racer Italian styling. Handling

with smaller manufacturers, such as Italjet, beginning to sell well.

"The scooter has had a resurgence which the moped has not. This has been almost exclusively due to design," says Richard Seymour of Seymour Powell, a design consultancy.

Seymour Powell has helped drag the former East German manufacturer, MZ, out of the Soviet dark ages with an award-winning design for its Skorpion model. The company is also helping an Indian/Japanese consortium design a scooter for the Indian market, where the emphasis is on durable practicality rather than sportiness.

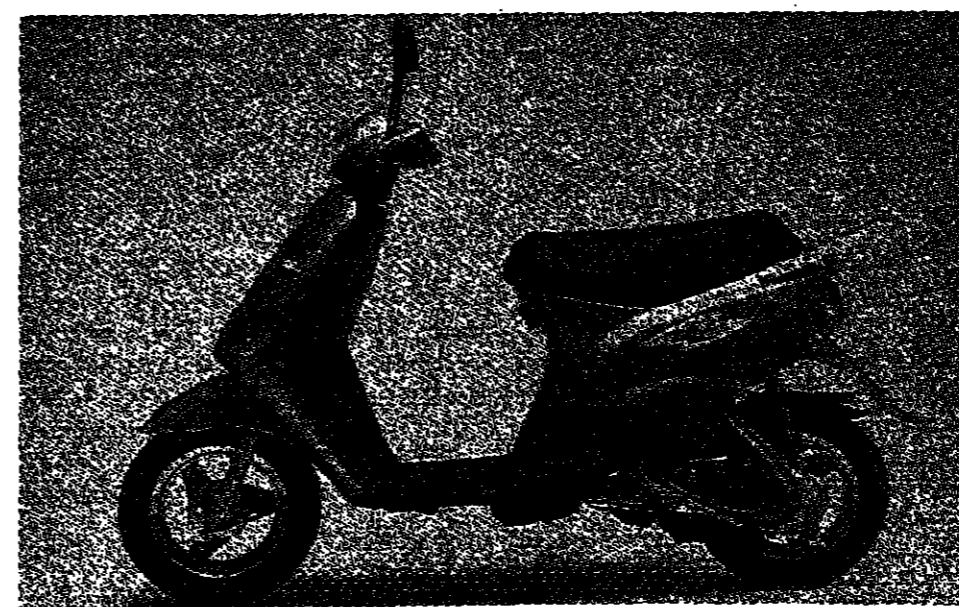
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If it's light and airy, it's all the rage

The Contemporary Applied Arts has moved into a beautiful new, light and airy building - at last a home that matches up to the quality of the objects on show.

For anybody who has not yet discovered this wonderful source of fine contemporary crafts, it is worth making the journey to London's Percy Street to see what is on offer. There is glass and jewellery, wall-hangings and sculpture, ceramics ranging from the fine to the rough and rustic - all of which might make better presents than the standard merchandise that fills most stores.

Those who like ceramics should make a point of going between now and July 20 when an exhibition, Soft Clay, shows the work of six potters - from the refined and sensi-

tive pots of Edmund de Waal (some of which are photographed here) to the amorphic, more robust wares of Joanna Constantinides and the delicious pieces by the Japanese



Pot, £150, by Sandy Brown

ceramicist Aki Moriuchi. Edmund de Waal's pieces start at £25 and go up to £460 with those photographed here costing £184, £142 and £110 for the jar with the lid.



Edmund de Waal's jar

Sandy Brown's wares range from £34.50 to £290 and the strongly glazed pot at £150. Specially desirable, too, are Aki Moriuchi's little creamware jugs at £67. Contemporary Applied Arts is at 3 Percy Street, London, W1.

In the early days they sold for remarkably low prices (about £2-£3 a metre, I seem to recall) but prices have gone up, with a metre of fabric costing an average of £11.50. But there is still butter mullin at £1.85 a metre, Egyptian cotton

at £3, natural repp at £6.80 and curtain linen union at £8.50.

While the original shop is still at Regents Park Road, there is a newer one at 271 Wandsworth Bridge Road, London, SW6. Mankin has also just launched a mail order catalogue so that anybody from anywhere in the UK can order the fabrics simply and easily.

The colour photography is astonishingly realistic showing colour, texture and weave, so ordering from the catalogue could not be simpler.

It is still, however, worth visiting the shops in person for although the catalogue lists some of the most popular fabrics in the range, it cannot show them all. The shops stock around 800 different natural fabrics, most of them

either hand-woven in India or made in old-established English mills.

For a copy of the catalogue send stamps to the value of £2 to Ian Mankin, 105 Regents Park Road, London, NW1 8UR.

Lucia van der Post

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Shades
Hampton
the 60s
Jackie C

Karen Walker
behind

A

FASHION



- From left: Lilac silk shantung shirt dress, £240, by MaxMara, 32 Sloane Street, London, SW1, (stockist inquiries: 0171-267 3434).
- Pink short-sleeved, linen mix jacket £99.95 and A-line skirt, £45, by Jigsaw (stockist inquiries: 0181-678 8443). White pearlised leather shoulder bag, £285, by Armando Pollini, 35 Brook Street, London, W1 (0171-629 7609). Silver link bracelet, £225, by Cox and Power, 85 Walton Street, London, SW3 (0171-586 6333).
- Green linen mix pencil skirt, £65, and green/white gingham check cotton shirt, £49.95, by the Liberty Collection, Liberty, Regent Street, London, W1 (0171-734 1234). Lilac suede fly front jacket, £268, by John Rocha (stockist inquiries: 0171-734 0123).
- Green linen mix, boxy jacket £299, tapered trousers £179 and lime linen shell top, £129, by Nicole Fahri, 158 New Bond Street, W1 (stockist inquiries: 0171-267 8787). Multi-coloured, chiffon scarf, £12.95, by Laura Ashley (stockist inquiries: 01686-622116). White square-toed loafers, £185, by Armando Pollini, 35 Brook Street, London, W1 (0171-629 7609). Silver cuff, £420, by Van Peterson, 194-196 Walton Street, London, SW3 (0171-584 1101).
- Gold shantung silk fitted shirt, £199, and chocolate shantung side zip pants, £229, by Uberta Camerino at Joseph, 23 Old Bond Street (stockist inquiries: 0171-629 4774). Cream sleeveless shell top, £19.99, from Next (stockist inquiries: 01622-648424). Multi-coloured long chiffon scarf, £12.95, by Laura Ashley (as above).
- Floral sundress in pure cotton, £175, by Votre Nom (stockist inquiries: 0171-584 7998). Lilac cashmere cardigan, £295, by Ballantyne (stockist inquiries: 0171-734 2861). Silver necklace, £380, by Van Peterson (as above).

Photographer: Roger Charity
 Styling: Karen Wheeler
 Assistant: Louise Sykes
 Make-up: Almee Adams
 Hair: Esther Chandler for Paul Mathew

Shades of the Hamptons, the 60s and Jackie O

Karen Wheeler on the inspiration behind this summer's clothes

Anyone who has bothered to look at a fashion magazine may well have decided to sit out this season gracefully. Hipster trousers, midriff-baring tops, psychedelic prints and searing colours are not the sort of trends that those aged over 30 can view with equanimity. Styles such as the shirtwaister dress can look unappealingly frumpy.

It is without doubt a "difficult" season. But in spite of the disconcerting messages from the catwalks, there are plenty of desirable clothes in the shops.

The trick for those who still want to look fashionable is to substitute wearer-friendly alternatives for the more formidable trends: slim capri pants instead of hipsters; shell tops or fitted shirts instead of halter necks; mid-tone pastels instead of acid brights.

In this way - and by choosing simple, modern shapes - it is possible to assemble a summer wardrobe which will both brighten up an urban setting and work well on holiday. The overall look is ladylike yet sporty with more than a hint of the 1950s and 1960s. "Think relaxed American sportswear; clothes which are easy, yet polished. Think Malibu, Palm Beach and East Hampton; and the sporty

sophistication of Ali McGraw," says American designer Michael Kors.

Topping the list of summer's essential buys is the cropped, boxy jacket reminiscent of the style worn by Jackie Onassis. Featuring short or three-quarter length sleeves, this should be bought in conjunction with a sleeveless shift (good for smart summer functions), slim trousers or a narrow skirt. Cropped hip-length jackets with slim capri pants (as in the Nicole Fahri style) are fabulously flattering if you have thin thighs and a trim bottom. Otherwise opt for a longer, belted safari jacket.

Also fashionable is the understated skirt and top. The straight, slim, knee-length skirt is a more feasible alternative to the flesh-baring, low slung A-line skirt that featured on many catwalks. This comes in a wide array of fabrics but high-tech, synthetics give it modernity. It can be worn conventionally with a jacket or with a shirt simply tucked into the waistband for a fashionably fuss-free look. The shell - a sleeveless, button-up-the-back top - is another item this season, either on its own or under a jacket.

A pair of slim capri pants (of the type popular in Palm Beach and East Hampton in the 1950s) is also high on the list of fashionable but wear-

friendly items. With the addition of Lycra - and the right top - these can be surprisingly easy to wear. They can be back or side zipped and made from anything from cotton pique to silk shantung. Whites will be useful while sand, shell pink, cornflower blue or pistachio are all popular shades.

The key to wearing capri pants successfully is to choose carefully what you wear with them. Fitted shirts (another essential summer buy), shell tops and twinsets look good on those with slim figures but a more modern - and easy-to-wear - alternative is the tunic top.

At MaxMara thigh-length tunics with matching capri pants have been hugely successful - particularly his include a cream, finely knitted cotton tunic with a hipster belt (£265) and a thigh-length tunic with short sleeves and a mandarin collar in bright orange shantung silk (£298). "These two styles have been best-

sellers because they combine three of summer's strongest trends in one: shantung silk, bright orange and the tunic shape," reports MaxMara.

The template for many of the styles is the ankle-slit, silk shantung, side-zipped trouser buys include Nicole Fahri's bluebell-coloured, side-zipped cotton trousers and Laura Ashley's powder blue capri pants in a linen-mix (£49.95) and matching cropped jacket (£90).

And so to the shirt dress. Advocated by just about every designer and strongly featured in magazines, there seems to be no escaping it this summer.

It can look stunningly simple and chic but also terrible if not chosen carefully. While silk dupion is considered the most fashionable fabric, a button-through-to-the-hem dress in fluid matte jersey that gently drapes over the body can also be flattering. Stiff, starched looking shirtwaisters are being worn with irony by the young and trendy but look ageing and humourless on anyone aged over 20.

Designers would also have you believe that no wardrobe is complete without at least one vividly patterned item this summer. "Bad taste" prints - 1970s graphics, wallpaper and soft furnishing prints - are the really big thing, but the more feasible alternative is to opt for one of the widely available pretty floral prints.

The prints range from small Liberty-esque florals to bigger, splashier designs. A floral shirt can go a long way to livening up a summer wardrobe but there are also some charming little sundresses - like the style featured by Votre Nom.

Given the preponderance of sleeveless shift dresses, shell tops and shirts being worn in place of jackets, the one utterly indispensable item is a luxurious, nicely coloured cardigan.

The chic way to wear it is over the shoulders with one

The one utterly indispensable item is a luxurious cardigan

neback

the rage

Craftsmen dig in their heels

Damian Foxxe reports on the art of bespoke shoemaking in London

In 1946, London's West End Master Bootmakers' Association registered 30 members, based around St James's, Mayfair and Piccadilly. Fifty years later, this figure has dropped to five.

At this rate, you might think that British bespoke shoemaking will soon be extinct. But you would be wrong.

These last five members already have orders which will keep them in business for at least the next 15 years. Demand for hand-made shoes is on the increase, and young artisans are once again eager to master the craft. The shoe industry is digging in its heels.

"British people who can afford bespoke shoes, have a duty to the craft to have shoes made," says Madeline Fry, manager of Henry Maxwell & Co, established in 1750. "I have been in the business for two years and already I am evangelical about it," she says.

"Our shoes last up to 40 years. We use quality materials which cost a fortune and are difficult to obtain. Customers are making a financial investment over time."

With prices ranging from £800 to more than £2,000 a pair, it is important to know what you are getting for your money. In the world of bespoke shoes, the term shoemaker remains a misnomer. The process involves as many as seven individually spe-

cialised craftsmen. It takes up to four months to create a finished pair.

"Each stage of the process takes between three and five years to learn," says George Glasgow, co-owner of George Cleverly & Co.

"Our makers can tell you the exact number of stitches to the inch needed to give maximum strength to the union of sole and upper on any particular shoe," says John Lobb, owner of John Lobb Bootmakers, founded in 1849.

The British bespoke shoe business is at a turning point. Significant investment in

training and strategic marketing initiatives are necessary if its future is to be secure. "It takes a great effort to keep traditions going," says Lobb. "Over the past 30 years we have made a concerted effort to train new craftspeople who are keen to learn the craft."

Cordwainers, Britain's foremost college for shoe making and design, has recently introduced a new bespoke course. "They had always been manufacturing oriented," says Jason Amesbury, who recently established his own business after 10 years at Lobb's.

"Now they are recognising that they have to market themselves properly and persuade a new audience of the advantages of the hand-made."

Fry is even more progressive. "I'm the new girl in town, so I can look at things in a different way." Constantly introducing new ideas, she is redeveloping the ghillie, a traditional Scottish shoe, worn with a kilt. "I want to have them lined in family tartans," she explains. "If you can afford to have a registered tartan, then you should consider investing in ghillie shoes which display it beautifully."

Co-operation between indi-

vidual shops is next on her agenda. "We could get greater discounts if we stood together as a unified force," says Fry.

Amesbury agrees and adds: "Cutting out middlemen and keeping prices down would be great."

He is targeting a younger market to expand his client base. "Younger clients want contemporary styles, so now I get more interesting commissions. People are suddenly becoming aware of what bespoke has to offer. As soon as they understand the specialised techniques which are involved in making bespoke

shoes, they see them as a good investment."

Lobb is more reflective: "If we do our job properly then the shoes which we make will always be worth buying."

In his impressive wooden paneled showrooms, hangs a shadowy oil painting entitled "The Seven Ages", each age signified by a pair of shoes. If this is a testament to one life, then Lobb's basement - its catacombed shelves spilling over with 20,000 lasts - is the story of an age.

Henry Maxwell & Co, 29 South Audley Street, W1. Tel: 0171-495 8811.

Cleverly, 12 The Royal Arcade, 28 Old Bond Street, W1. 0171-493 0443.

John Lobb, 9 St James Street, SW1, 0171-300 3664.

Jason Amesbury, 33 Elder Street, E1. 0171-377 2008.



GARDENING

A brilliant foil to the green effect

Robin Lane Fox breaks the colour code with single vibrant blooms

Gardens are still running wonderfully late in England. Like a good programme which is going into extra time. The viburnums of mid-May are only just out of flower and once again the season has played marvellous havoc with people who plan too carefully for exact colour combinations.

Odd things are coming out together, a relief for those of us who have never sat down and thought through the implications of every colour combination in our gardens. The best effects happen by accident and then we pretend that we foresaw them in our wisdom.

One effect, however, occurs every year and is seldom given the necessary attention. The first fortnight of June is still overpoweringly green, except in a freak year like 1995. Many gardeners fuss over white or orange flowers but never consider what a strong colour a young green is in their design.

Those whose gardens have bad boundaries are particularly prone to the problem. Until mid-May, the edges of the garden are transparent hedges and trees out of leaf. Then, brilliant green opens in a rush. At first, it is merciful in hiding the neighbours. After a week of relief, it starts to overpower spring gardens going past their best. Multi-coloured tulips are fading and nothing has taken over in borders which are also mounds of greenery.

I like to play with this problem because it is well solved by ignoring the usual advice on planting. Most of the handbooks, even the Royal Horticultural Society dictionaries, will tell beginners to plant herbs, clematis in groups of five or more. Often, they will also tell them to confine their irises to special beds where they can be lifted, divided and perhaps even weeded if you have the energy for a difficult task.

This late season has persuaded me that we often do better to disobey the rules and proceed on the opposite principle. Dictionaries are not often interested in serious visual problems like strength of fresh green colouring. One way to combat it is to distribute individual plants with brilliant colours wherever it is most monotonous and to counter nature's own brilliance with an equally brilliant transplant of your own.

The ideal candidate is a plant which some eyes dismiss as awkward. Poppies have a reputation for leaving holes and gaps and being too much of a good thing. In fact, they are heaven sent at this season if you use them as individuals rather than as a group.

I have learned to dot some of the brightest forms round the garden, especially where the natural green is particularly brilliant. Vibrant red and young greenery go superbly together and it takes no more than a plant or two at intervals

to lead the eye on and remind you that you are looking at something more than a hectic forest of green.

In the east Mediterranean, nature plays the same trick more spectacularly wherever red tulips grow wild in young grass or the superb anemones burst out on the green hillsides of Syria.

We cannot be so extravagant in England, but poppies here and there make a huge difference. By early July, they will have died back and other mounds of greenery will have hidden the individual absentees. Poppies put down long roots which are well able to cope with the expanding claims of late-flowering neighbours.

The choice of colours seems to get better and better every year. Subtle eyes seem to be entranced by a deep plum coloured variety which emerged in Somerset. Known as Patsy Plum, it costs up to £4 a plant but those who have it think it

good value and it is probably one for smaller gardens which require only the most exotic examples in a small space.

I prefer the traditional scarlet to dark red range, set off by one or two scattered plants of the wonderful Perry's White. Six years ago, a nurseryman sent me three plants of a brilliant poppy called Allegro by mistake. Curses flew but I had to use them somewhere and by dotting them down beds which are otherwise far too green in early June, I have ended up with an enviable accident.

Their huge scarlet flowers would be too much in a group but they transform a weak border between the lilacs and the paeonies. I am a great believer in artful dotting of strongly coloured individual flowers. If you repeat them at wide intervals round a garden they seem to lead the eye on and light up the entire setting. Goliath is another brilliant possibility but my second choice is the darker, more muted Beauty of Livermore which shades into a singular dark red.



Monet's 'Wild Poppies' now in the Musée d'Orsay, Paris

©Goussier Art Library

Individual irises are often just as successful. By early July they have been swamped in a border but so long as you choose the strongest varieties with sufficient height to the stem, you can enjoy an iris impact round the garden without being stuck with a drab iris bed out of season. The tall yellow Starshine is amazingly robust, as is the pure white White City. Both need to be staked to show to the best advantage. I dislike staking so early and I recommend the

purple and white velvety Wabash as an alternative. Its flowers are not so heavy and they have a brilliance which stands out among any emerging clumps of daisy.

I have to say that I think the French were probably better with these plants than many of us are nowadays. Poppies and irises were high points in those gardens which we can recover from written descriptions in that elusive golden age from 1890 to 1910. An early display suited their hotter and more

difficult climate but these two brilliant contrasts with green summer delighted the great artist gardeners. Irises are still a mainstay in the version of Monet's garden which the crowds flock to see at Giverny.

Monet also admired poppies whose oriental forms, the brightest for our borders, made a significant impact in the 1890s. One of their great magpies was Monet's fellow painter and gardening colleague, Caillebotte. Visitors to his garden,

now lost to us, commented on the particular array of poppies which he had built up. Artists' eyes do sometimes pick on mainstays which quieter gardeners tend to underplay.

There are no poppies, sadly, in the exhibition of Caillebotte's paintings at the Royal Academy. He loved poppies, none the less, and he is much in my mind as I look at their impact, so strong in a year which has held up the young greens and made them so dominant for so long.

Is it muck or is it magic?

Everyone, sometime or other, must experience an event that brings home to them the horrors of modern living. For me, it was while working very grudgingly, in our new garden, which my wife wanted to turn organic. I was heaving out the weeds when, over the fence and across the river, a light aircraft was spraying a field of peas. How I would have liked to have done the same to my extensive crop of nettles, bindweed, dock and ground elder.

At that moment, a swallow that had been chasing insects above me fell dead at my feet, and I then saw the aircraft do a victory wobble and fly off for its next load of poison.

I was converted, and I have been a willing organic gardener since. I began to read some of my wife's Henry Doubleday booklets. We even gave up a precious day of one of our holidays to go to Ryton Gardens and see the "muck and magic" people at work - composting manure, growing green manure, mulching with carpets and black polythene, re-inventing the old environmentally friendly ways of coping with pests and diseases.

From Ryton I got the idea of the carrot cage. The carrot fly flies just above ground level and will go round, rather than up and over, to look for a place to lay its eggs. Solution: build a mesh barrier 2ft high around your carrot patch.

Other pests are not so easily beaten. In truly "muck and magic" style, I once imported a load of farmyard manure. With it, however, came some tiny, hard-shelled boring things that set about potatoes in early June. I gave up growing spuds until, during a craze for laying black polythene over empty spaces to keep weeds down, I hit on the wizard wheeze of excavating an area, lining it with polythene and filling the crater with earth from under the bonfire, where nourishing plant fodder had accumulated over 15 years. Sweet was success. But whitefly in brassica I could not defeat.

Fortunately, Brussels sprouts are not popular, and these were home to most of the beasts, so we stopped growing them. We can grow calabrese and broccoli without too many of the pests taking up residence, so long as we rotate the crops each year.

My mind and will are now attuned to doing things the natural way, and it makes gardening a lot easier by taking the worry out of the work. If you are happy to let your lawn become a piece of land where grass predominates but where Persian speedwell, daisies, white clover, lady's bedstraw, nipplewort, dandelion, hawkbit and birds foot trefoil are not destroyed by poison, immense pleasure is added to your enjoyment of it and you are not forever having to fork out on lawn conditioners

and selective weedkillers.

I have also become more tolerant of wildlife. When I see our resident cock pheasant eating the young brassica, I simply remind myself that they need netting. At one time I used a shotgun and an air rifle to keep down the many wood pigeons that roost and nest in our old ash trees. We used to eat them but when my family became largely vegetarian, I felt guilty about the dead birds and sold my guns.

Being the sort of person who likes (or rather likes) to be in control, the idea of creatures marauding in my garden did not appeal. I still cannot forgive blackbirds and starlings for eating our cherries or grey squirrels for stealing our conifers and walnuts; nor do I like rats much. However, I can tolerate the garden mice that inhabit our compost heaps as they help to distract my neighbour's cats from the moorhens on the pond.

I can now sit and watch wood pigeons grazing the clover in the lawn or starlings razoring for leather jackets. I no longer worry about garden pests: aphids are consumed by ladybirds and hover flies, midges by flycatchers, swallows and martins. Contrary to the general trend, we have our colony of song thrushes that live on the plentiful supply of unadulterated slugs, shared with frogs and toads.

We have thickets of briars, eglantine, cow parsley and nettles where the wrens, warblers, tits and finches thrive and butterflies breed. We have a dozen ivy-clad dead elms interspersed with holly, hawthorn, maple and wild plum - a veritable larder and home for creatures that like to live in such places. And the enormous bonus to me is that it more or less looks after itself.

If you leave well alone, you can enjoy the weeds as much as the plants you have put in yourself. Has earth anything more wonderful to show than a large patch of dandelions in a herb garden or a blue film of speedwell in your new spring grass? One summer my favourite was a huge hairy ox tongue that grew at the top of the terrace steps; that was the year after the first burdock established itself among the blackberries, and teazles began to grow in a bed of hardy geraniums.

So my philosophy is if a plant cannot cope with a disease, it dies and we replace it with something hardier. My pride at one time were my spallered peaches; they now get leaf-curl in the spring but still produce an edible, albeit smaller, crop.

Enjoying what nature provides has been the principal gain in organic gardening - and a great reward for not poisoning the land.

Roy Barnes

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A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Suddenly, London Docklands is chic

Anne Spackman looks at what is coming on to the market east of Tower Bridge

State agents in Docklands still get calls from prospective buyers offering to take recession casualties off their hands. Where, the agents wonder, have these people been for the past three years? In Docklands, the biggest problem is the lack of property for sale. If you want a two-bedroom flat in a good location, you will probably have a choice of about six. However, the lack of supply is being swiftly addressed. Figures from Savills Research show that more than 7,000 new properties are due to come on to the market in central London over the next four years and 70 per cent of them are in Docklands. Given that 70 per cent of the demand in central London is not in the area east of Tower Bridge, is there a danger that the tables of supply and demand will turn too quickly?

Those who know the area say it is no longer helpful to talk about a single Docklands market. It is like talking about west London as a single entity. The area has matured sufficiently to have defined parts - Butler's Wharf and St Katherine's Dock, Wapping and Limehouse, Rotherhithe, Surrey Quays and the Isle of Dogs.

The smartest areas are those closest to Tower Bridge on both sides of the river, with the north bank areas of Wapping and Limehouse coming next. It is in these areas that two-thirds of the new developments are going up. The agents say these are exactly the kinds of properties which buyers want and cannot find. They have no difficulty selling quality homes in good locations: their worries are about 1,500 flats at the lower end of the market.

This shift upmarket represents a significant change in Docklands. Two years ago, the area sold primarily on price. You could get more there for your money than anywhere else in central London. As a result, many buyers were investors rather than owner-occupiers. One of the most successful developments was Barratt's 308-home project at Sovereign View on the river front at Rotherhithe. Barratt sold three-bedroom townhouses with garages, directly fronting the river, for less than £150,000 - the best value in town.

Now, growing numbers are deciding they would like to live in the area even



The bright lights of east London: Canary Wharf, Docklands Light Railway and the surrounding area

though they could afford to live elsewhere. Their choice may be between a two-bedroom conversion in lively, but traffic-bound Fulham and a riverside apartment on the water, with parking, but lacking shops and bars. More people are heading east. It is these buyers who have changed the property equation in Docklands.

With so few secondhand homes coming to the market, people are being forced to buy off-plan from among eight or so new developments. They want warehouse conversions or distinctive, modern blocks,

high-quality fittings, a view of water, good transport links and, of course, parking. The most expensive site is Taylor Woodrow's development at City Quay in St Katherine's Dock, where prices are reaching £225 a square foot. Of 30 apartments, 21 are sold, including five of the six penthouses - and the building has yet to come out of the ground.

Across the river, Hampstead Homes is converting two warehouses just south of Tower Bridge into 109 apartments, with prices around £175 a square foot. Months

before completion, the Boss House development is already half sold, entirely to English owner-occupiers. The same picture emerges at Jacob's Island, a Berkeley Homes development, a few minutes walk from Butler's Wharf. The main riverside block of 16 apartments, costing from £295,000, has been sold off-plan.

In Limehouse, buyers are paying £225 a square foot for the large, three-bedroom flats with metal decks at the front of Ballymore Homes' architecturally striking Dundee Wharf. The 183-apartment develop-

ment has views up and down the river. With so many developments, buyers have to watch they are not heading for a life on a building site. Any undeveloped, or even badly developed, land is a potential site - particularly in Limehouse.

In Butler's Wharf, an outline plan for development of the 11-acre Butler's Wharf estate has been submitted by Frogmore. It includes around 750 homes, double the number already there. More immediately, the Jubilee Line extension is under construction, due for completion in 1993. Buyers

will feel the work on the line is a pain worth suffering in the short-term. Agents feel its impact is still seriously underestimated. Tom Marshall of Cluttons, who, with Savills, are the most active agents in this market, thinks three areas will benefit most from the Jubilee extension - Butler's Wharf, those parts of Rotherhithe within 10 minutes walk of the Canada Water stop and north Bermondsey, an area very like Islington 20 years ago. Cluttons are selling a warehouse development at Tanners Yard in Bermondsey where one-bedroom flats cost around £90,000.

Russell Taylor of Savills is advising developers to change the mix in their schemes to increase the proportion of one-bedroom flats. They are popular both with owner-occupiers, as first and second homes, and with tenants. Both Taylor and Marshall warn investors to check carefully the strength of the rental market in the specific area in which they are buying. They have seen some eyebrow-raising yields being offered in some of the Docklands' poorest rental locations.


Tom Marshall thinks the real danger of over-supply will come in poorly built blocks which are being heavily sold to overseas investors. Rents achieved may be disappointing and there may be no capital gain because many have paid 10-15 per cent over the odds. "Those buildings that have been as much as 50 per cent sold to the Far East could become white elephants," he says.

Those most familiar with Docklands say there is a real danger of over-supply at the bottom of the market, but the area is robust enough to withstand the odd failure. Barratt, with 2,500 homes, is the largest and longest established housebuilder in Docklands. David Pretty, who has spearheaded its strategy, says it will remain active across all price ranges, although, significantly, his latest purchase is a prime site on the water.

Perhaps the best evidence of confidence in the future of the Docklands housing market comes from the estate agents. Russell Taylor, of Savills, has bought in Limehouse and two of Tom Marshall's staff at Cluttons have bought at Boss House. Neil King of Alex Neil, an agent who has been in Docklands for 10 years, says he used to have to pay a premium to get staff to work in the area. Now he is having to filter the calls from West End agents looking for a move east.

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RUNNING AN ESTATE

Wealth grows in forestry, holiday parks

Gerald Cadogan on a Cumbrian success story

The problem of keeping the estate intact was vast. But today the Lowthers still own their views - as befits a family prominent in Cumbria since at least the 12th century (although the Earl of Lonsdale title was not conferred until the late 1700s). Despite shrinkage from the time when half of Cumberland and Westmorland belonged to the family and they sent nine MPs to parliament, the estate remains huge.

James Lowther's business skills and 3,000 acres of woods - mainly Victorian oaks - saved the great estate when, as seventh earl, he succeeded his grandfather in 1863. The Depression, the second world war and the extravagant life of the famous 'Yellow Earl' (the fifth, who died in 1944) hit the estate hard. "In 1910, the trustees allowed him £180,000 a year. By 1935, they could afford to pay only £8,000," said Lord Lonsdale. "So they told him to quit Lowther Castle."

It still has 50,000 acres of private land or forestry, sporting and mineral rights on common land, mainly between exits 33 and 40 of the M6 which runs through the eastern side of the Lowther land. Its 10,000-acre core holding is centred on Lowther, south of Penrith. There are also 16,000 acres round Grasmer, let to the National Trust "for a shilling".

Lowther Castle symbolises the new order. The vast house (by Sir Robert Smirke) and garden had suffered terribly from the army in the war. So Lord Lonsdale took the roof off,

'The rose garden was so heavily manured that the trees grew like anything'

making a grand Georgian gothic ruin. The Lowther holding includes three landscape parks (the earliest dating from the 13th century), woods, farms, quarries, caravan park, leisure park, housing association and the freehold of a holiday village (to open next year).

From an 18th century high terrace - like that at Rievaulx in Yorkshire - we looked down on the 3,000-acre former deer park and a tract of Lowther Cumbria stretching to clumps of trees on the far horizon.

"The wealth has come from forestry and minerals," said Lord Lonsdale. Coining money from the coal on their west Cumberland estate, his forebears "built Whitehaven as a planned town" and collected farms for their mineral rights. But once coal was nationalised, he said that estate but kept the forestry and other mineral rights. Likewise in 1919, when

Manchester Corporation acquired 26,000 acres for the watershed for Heweswater reservoir (now part of North West Water), "we kept some of the sporting".

Today, the estates are a mixture of businesses that have grown out of managing the land, with a tilt to woods and quarries. "I had my estate agency group, and so started charging for advice" - it became a management buy-out as Lowther Scott-Harden.

Lowther Construction is another MBO, while Lowther Forestry soon started managing woods as far away as Sussex and Hampshire. Now Lord Lonsdale's third son, Jim, has persuaded the family - and its trustees - to invest in a £160,000 wood treatment plant for the sawmill and produce garden furniture as well as poles, pallets and fencing.

Much of the gardens went to woods. "The rose garden was so heavily manured that the trees grew like anything. We have just felled the first sick spruce at 41 years old." How different from the old days when the gardens stretched to 90 acres, after being extended by 60 acres to honour the Earl's visit on August 12 1885, as tablet on a then new gate lodge records. Now the lodge is marooned on the other side of the M6. "They wanted to move the motorway farther away from it. I said, 'Don't do that. You'll take away good farmland. I don't mind cutting off the German emperor.'"

Buying 1,100 acres of wood next to his land from the Grosvenors (who had themselves bought it in 1947 for its tax advantages) was a coup, helping Lord Lonsdale towards doubling the woods to 8,000 acres. He said: "I bought it as my pension to let me hand over the core estate."

The estate fences are a mixture of old, grey lichenous oak



Lord Lonsdale with Jim Lowther, the earl's third son (left) and Robert Benson, managing trustee

and freshly cut larch. As he planned four decades ago, his first postwar plantings are ready to come down. "When we put in fences from those Victorian oaks, we thought they would last a bit over 40 years when we could replace them with what we had planted." That is how it is happening.

But Lord Lonsdale is pessimistic about the new grant-driven regime for forestry. He said that the old tax-relief system encouraged traditional estates because all establishment costs could be set against income tax. Then "the City of London wide boys got hold of the scheme", abusing it until Nigel Lawson brought in the new system which "has wrecked traditional forestry".

Now it "takes 20 to 30 years before the yield from thinnings meets the annual costs" and,

in common with other big owners, he is planting less. (Private plantings are not meeting the Forestry Commission's expectations.) "Death duty (inheritance tax) is the main reason now to own forestry as part of a family estate strategy," he said.

The farms total 22,000 acres (19,500 tenanted with an average size of 275 acres) with cattle and sheep, or arable farming to feed the cattle. His own 350 beef breeding cattle have had four cases of BSE in four years because of cows bought from different dairy farms. He said: "We'll probably go ourselves to a closed herd."

Strong lamb and chicken prices are the other side of the BSE story. The farm has 2,000 ewes which produce about 4,000 lambs. But, as we talked, Graeme Hector, managing director of the farming busi-

nesses, arrived with a fax with "bad news about the chickens". The price was down as consumers went back to beef. But chickens have done well every year, except in 1995 when salmonella was widespread. The year after, when many small producers had gone out of business, "we made five times as much profit as before".

Two quarries produce less volatile income. ARC (part of the Hanson group) uses one for roadstone, paying royalties. The other is for limestone for steelmaking.

In 1952, Lord Lonsdale ordered a geological survey to see if he had the right sort of limestone for blast furnaces. As the results were good, he bought more of the mineral rights below the common land where the quarry is. Close to the M6 and the main west

coast railway, it came into operation in 1960 and produces 1m tonnes a year under lease to British Steel.

Leisure is another money-spinner and publicises Lowther - through his caravan park and the leisure park. Franchised out, it is like a US action park, says Lord Lonsdale. Lowther also has annual driving trials - Prince Philip is a regular competitor - and a country fair. More than 50,000 people visit. It is an attempt, says Lord Lonsdale's son-in-law Robert Benson, who co-ordinates the estates, to show people "what goes on in the countryside, both work and leisure".

Inside the wood, bought from the Grosvenors, is the latest attraction (let on a 125-year lease). Rank is building a holiday village with 760 lodges and nine restaurants on 370 acres. The Lowthers will continue to

run the rest of the wood. "We shall not fell wholesale round the village but encourage natural regeneration through thinning," said Lord Lonsdale.

"There is room for eight of these in the UK. This will be the fourth." Later, eyeing the electricity pylons, he said: "They need an extra wayleave now to add fibre optic cables. That will bring in some more money."

And so with his imaginative pragmatism - and some luck - the estate thrives. It is light years away from his forebears' extravagance. If this disappoints those with a romantic view of being a big landowner, it has kept a large chunk of Cumbria viable and provides work - the holiday village will employ 700 - and housing for many Cumbrians.

Lowther Driving Trials and Country Fair: August 9-11

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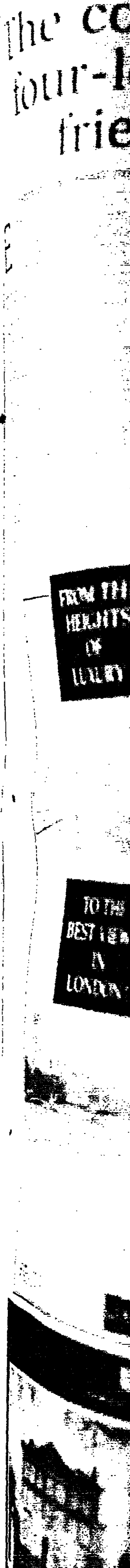
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EQUESTRIAN PROPERTY

The cost of a four-legged friend

Gerald Cadogan on houses for horses

Everything equine - racehorse, hunter or pony - is a luxury. And properties with good accommodation for horses are costly. If you intend buying a horse property, make sure you know what the previous owners used it for.

Horses need pasture, loose boxes, blankets, tack (saddles and fastenings) and winter feed.

The vet does not call for free. And riders wear a costly uniform. It can start, as children, with a hacking jacket and Pony Club tie and graduate to full hunting rig. Add the expenses of livery (having the horse kept in stables) or employing a groom (in effect, one's own private livery), and the sums rise sharply.

Then one has to ride at meets or shows. A new horse box can easily cost up to £50,000 - or more depending on how many extra comforts it has for the riders and/or grooms.

Even a humble trailer may cost £2,000.

The price of paddocks has gone up too. Since they are seen as amenity land, they are at a premium to agricultural land. Today they are likely to cost between £4,000 and £6,000 an acre, which is partly an effect of the rise in farmland prices. "I have even sold a paddock of under an acre at a rate of £10,000 an acre," says Ian McConnell of Savills. He added: "The first acre always costs most. If the land goes up to 4 or 5 acres, it reduces pro rata."

In spite of the bills, the British and the Irish unite in a love of horses and a readiness to spend large sums on the animals, whether directly or by proxy in the betting shop.

Before buying a horse property, do some homework. If the property was used for racehorse training, breeding and showjumping, or if the owner was a jockey, dressage-master, eventer, or rodeo rider, the odds strengthen that it will be the sort of place where your horses will be comfortable.

An example in Ireland is Cor-

ries at Bagenalstown in Co Carlow, a fine Georgian house near Mount Leinster which Jordan was due to bring to auction on Wednesday. Its previous owner was Denny Cordell-Lavarak who was in the rock 'n' roll business but turned - in good Irish fashion - to training horses and greyhounds. In 1990, he had the top Irish two-year-old. The yard at Corries has 25 loose boxes on 28 acres and there is an all-weather gallop on a further 16 acres.

Rock music and horses also combine at Huckenden Farm in the Chilterns, near High Wycombe. It belongs to Alvin Lee, guitarist of Ten Years After. Besides paddocks, stabling and a field shelter, the house boasts two recording studios. The price from Andrew Milson is £650,000.

A conventional horse property in prime hunting ground is Park House at Gaddesby, between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. This Georgian house with 11 acres is in the Queen's Friday country, and the Cottage more, Belvoir and Fernis are in



Another stud for sale...

boxing distance. Such famous hunts make an enticing prospect. Fisher Hoggarth and Savills ask for £550,000.

Also in Leicestershire, the home of Desert Orchid is for sale. This great steeplechaser was bred and brought up at the Manor House at Ab Kettleby, near Melton Mowbray (John D Wood in Oxford, £390,000).

Or you could buy a place that produced a runner-up in the Grand National - Romany King in 1993. Queensford Farm is outside Dorchester-on-Thames, between Oxford and Henley. It also bred Couldn't Be Better which won the Hennessy Gold Cup in 1995. The house is Queen Anne and the price £800,000 from Strutt &

Parker in Newbury. For those wishing to breed horses, Pat Eddery's Barretts town stud, built in the 1960s, near Aylesbury costs less with 72 acres (John D Wood in Oxford, £800,000) than the first million pound yearling that it produced. Another stud for sale is Elmwell Park near Bury St

Edmunds (S & P in Ipswich, £1.25m), which has bred or raised several winners of big races and was originally the home of the leading stallion, Indian Ridge. The price includes 120 acres and three cottages, as well as the expected foaling unit, stallion box, covering barn and covered exercise yard.

An equally good racing connection is the house that John Francombe built 30 years ago, and later sold, near Lambourn in Berkshire. Windy Hollow (John D Wood in Winchester, £525,000) comes with 22 loose boxes and an indoor school.

At Holyport, near Maidenhead in Berkshire, Lane Fox offers two houses - Belmont Farm and Great Oaks - with stabling that may appeal to those who want to ride in Windsor Great Park (with permit) rather than hunt. Both are priced at £750,000.


Farther from London, horse properties are cheaper. From the 52-acre Broadmead Farm at West Knolly (Humberts, £575,000) one may hunt with the South & West Wilts, and the Portman and Blackmore Vale hunts are in boxing distance.

In Somerset, Foxstutcher House near Withypool (Jackson-Stops, £235,000) was built of Canadian cedar in 1937 in the heart of what is now the Exmoor National Park, with 17 acres and views down the Barle valley. Here you can chase foxes or ride out with the Devon and Somerset Stag-hounds.

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HOMES FOR EMPTY NESTERS

Older buyers who set a standard

Anne Spackman on a market which is increasingly sophisticated

There used to be an expectation that, as people grew older, their thoughts would turn to bungalows and cottages by the sea. Some still do. But the last few years have seen a growing trend for wealthy, older buyers to go for smart, new, town centre developments. A new house with four bedrooms, or a penthouse, is as likely to sell to a couple in their 50s or 60s as it is to a growing family.

Empty-nesters are sophisticated buyers. There may only be two of them - most of the time - but they are accustomed to a certain standard of living. They would no more trade the family house for a shocker than they would their Rover for a Mini. With retirement approaching, they would prefer to spend a large capital sum on a new property in return for low running costs.

The developers who have profited most from this trend are those who have bought town centre sites in historic places like Winchester, Cheltenham and Edinburgh. Often they are building in conservation areas, which means conforming to the architectural style of the neighbourhood and paying great attention to materials and detail. The high cost of these competitive sites also means they must go for quality properties in order to get a decent return.

The result has been a great improvement in the standard of property available, which, in turn, has attracted the kinds of buyers who would previously have shunned new-build. Interestingly, the same town

centre sites have always been sought by upmarket retirement developers who know their customers want to be within walking distance of the shops. But few empty-nesters feel ready to sign up for a scheme labelled "OAPs only".

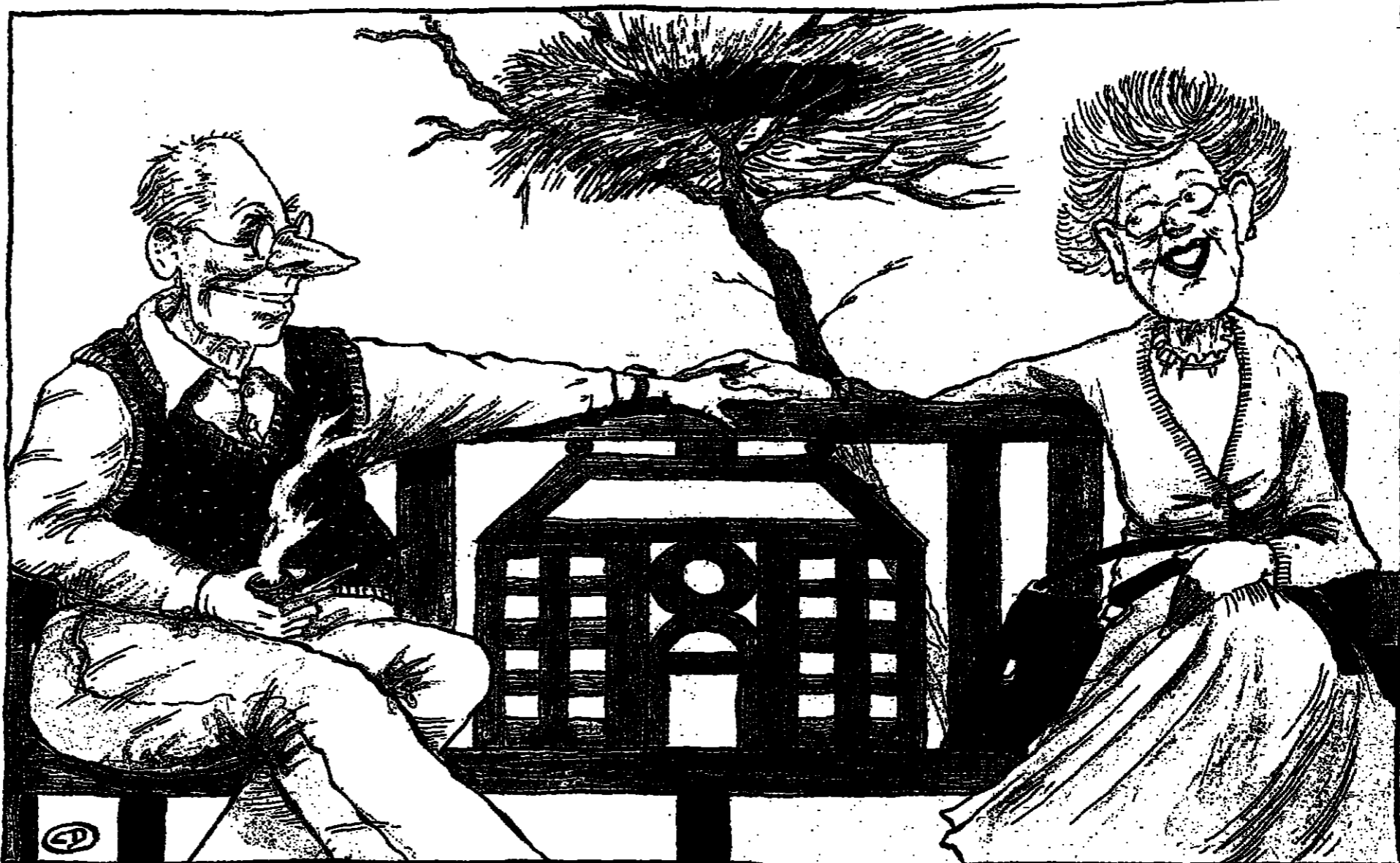
When Try Homes launched the first phase of its development at the old Peninsular Barracks in Winchester, 75 per cent of the buyers were older couples trading down, mostly from homes in Hampshire.

The first phase consisted of three-bedroom mews cottages with courtyard gardens, priced at around £140,000. They were designed by a local architect, Hugh Thomas, whose involvement has generated a lot of interest in the scheme.

The St James Mews is one of the few new-build elements in what is mainly a conversion of Grade II listed buildings around the old parade ground. The most impressive, the King's House, is being converted into apartments with lift ceilings, costing from £165,000 to £185,000. The other old buildings, including the Wren House and The Bailey, are being converted into houses.

One of the first people to reserve an apartment in the King's House is Bill Heller, the deputy lieutenant of Hampshire and a prominent local businessman still involved part-time with the family's cable business, Millflex.

Heller and his wife, Jean, wanted to release some of the capital in the family home to pass on to their children, while retaining a base in Winchester within walking distance of shops and hospitals.



Peninsular Barracks was appealing particularly because of its location, its historic association with the city and its period architecture. "Of course, security is another important feature," Heller says. "Sadly, you have to worry about that with a house in the country."

Many of the buyers at Winchester have a history of involvement with the army. Few are taking out mortgages. The Hellers are buying as a second home but, for most others, it is their only and, possibly, last one. The Peninsular Barracks development, which comprises 104 houses and flats, will be finished in 1997.

Security is one of the top priorities of most new home buyers, but, for people approach-

ing retirement, it is particularly important. They have the time to travel and want to enjoy it without worrying about possible break-ins.

Good security, low heating and repair bills and freedom from gardening are the advantages of a new home cited by most older buyers trading down. But few would consider them if they came wrapped in a bland modern apartment block. To go from Regency to a standard box would be too much. But how hard is it to go to replica Regency?

Marjorie and Keith Imhah traded down from a five-bedroom Victorian home in Cheltenham to a penthouse a mile away in a Beaufort Homes terrace on Montpelier Spa Road. Do they feel claustrophobic in

their smaller home? Do they miss having a garden?

"Ask me that in six months," says Marjorie Imhah. "I do miss my rhubarb, but I'm building up a pot garden on our terrace. When my younger son came home, he was rather shocked at the size of the spare bedrooms. But we are delighted with the apartment. Being on the top floor, we have a good feeling of light and space. The main bedroom, the sitting room and the dining room are all a good size. We have a very large south-facing terrace. It is superbly finished on the inside and the outside."

"One of the things that sold it to us was the location. We can walk everywhere. I can see across to the town hall. If we want to go out for supper, we

can have a bottle of wine and walk home."

More than half the 42 apartments in Montpelier Spa Road sold to people over 50. Beaufort Homes has got planning permission for a similar development nearby, next to the Queen's Hotel. The Imperial Square apartments will go from 1,000 sq feet upwards and cost from £150,000 to £350,000.

In Edinburgh, the developer Applecross has found empty-nesters to be its core buyers of smart apartments in the city's best residential districts. They normally move from a larger house less than 2 miles away.

Their agents, DTZ Debenham Thorpe, did a survey of buyers at Christmas and identified their top priorities: they want a lift, excellent security, a bal-

cony or terrace, a good-sized dining room and sitting room to take their family and furniture, plenty of storage and a garage. "We found we were giving them too many bathrooms," says John Brown, residential director of DTZ Debenham Thorpe. "One lady said, 'Have you tried spending a day cleaning them?'"

He is now selling a new development by the Walker Group - a conversion of a restaurant in Victorian houses in Rothesay Terrace which had served as the headquarters of the Hydro Electric Board. The first phase of apartments will not be available until September, but £1m worth of reservations were taken in the first sales weekend. Prices range from £67,000 to £190,000.

John Brown says: "In sites like this, we sell to international people coming back home from overseas. I sold a penthouse to one client who bought from Hong Kong after seeing the property on the Internet."

"Investors are starting to look at Edinburgh now but, for properties worth over £100,000, it is difficult to get a good enough rental income to make it attractive. The majority of our buyers are local empty-nesters."

Try Homes, Peninsular Barracks, Winchester from Hampton 01962-842030; Imperial Apartments, Cheltenham from Beaufort Homes, 01454-311444; Rothesay Terrace, Edinburgh, from DTZ Debenham Thorpe 0131-499 2222

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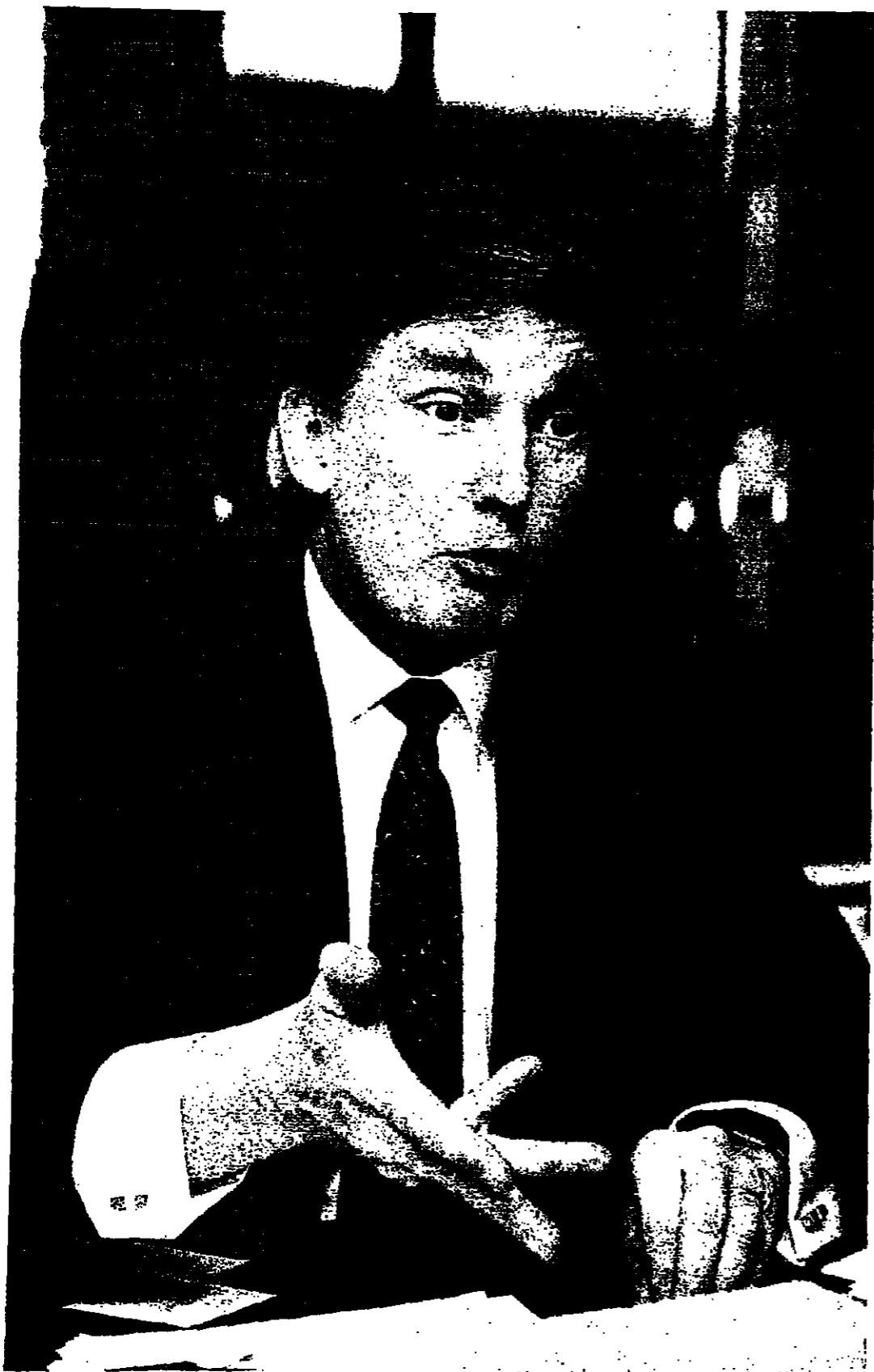
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THE PROPERTY INTERVIEW

Building a reputation on quality and glamour

Anne Spackman talks to Donald Trump about his heroes and passions



Donald Trump: a man who just wants the best

Normally there would be no need to show Donald Trump a menu. He likes to describe himself, in a phrase which embraces more than just his eating habits, as a steak and potatoes man. But right now, steak in Britain is off.

"Normally I only eat steak," Trump says, as the waiter hands him a menu, "but as I got off the plane this morning, let's just say it wasn't what I was most looking forward to." He paws at the tablecloth with an imaginary hoof.

Not used to making choices from menus, he asks for suggestions. The waiter suddenly appears with a trolley of rack of juicy, pink lamb, broccoli and *dauphinoise* potatoes. "That looks fine," says Trump. "I'll have it well done. And go heavy on the potatoes."

We are lunching at Claridges, where the Trump entourage is staying on this leg of its European tour. He is selling Trump International Hotel and Tower, his latest gleaming bronze edifice on the south-west corner of Central Park in New York. He is also selling the comeback of Donald Trump. Given his taste for five-star, modern luxury, it is difficult to imagine him feeling at home in such an antique setting.

The wine list is as unfamiliar as the menu. Trump does not drink nor does he smoke. "Two of my better habits," he adds wryly, ordering a Virgin Mary. He describes an amusing lunch a couple of years ago where the journalist had so much wine to drink that he was incapable of asking any questions. I order a large bottle of fizzy water.

So if drinking and smoking are out, how does Trump cope with stress? After all, he has seen more of it than most. This is a man who in two years went from being listed by Forbes magazine as one of the 20 richest people in the US to being \$8.8bn in debt (his figure).

His financial collapse coincided with a divorce so public that it rivaled that of the Duke and Duchess of York. (He would love the comment.) The royal family is one of his main topics of conversation throughout lunch. Although a big man, but not a fat one, he clearly does not scoff his way through the bad times. So what does he do?

"Even in the worst times I never really felt under stress. I don't say that to compliment myself. I think it is a genetic thing. I never thought I would not come through. I do have a couple of idiosyncrasies, though," he adds. And they are? "Unprintable in a newspaper."

I persuade him to have a starter in order to keep me company. His lobster bisque arrives along with my smoked salmon. Is it good? "It's fine." He seems slightly surprised not to have been served first.

On to more important matters... The royal family, for instance. Trump's memory for the detail of recent episodes in the royal saga would rival any member of the House of Windsor fan club. Yet while he loves the gossip, he is also full of sympathy for the way they have had to live out their personal crises in the full glare of the camera. After all, he knows how it feels.

While he may say he can handle stress better than most, there is no doubt that the bad times dominate his thinking. His sympathies and interests mesh completely with his own experiences. His conversation is all about famous people who have faced a crisis either in their financial or personal lives. If they have survived that crisis - as he has done - they are the beneficiaries of his total respect. If they have not, that is the way it goes.

Take Robert Maxwell, for instance. "I think he took a message. What's happened to his sons? They got off? Good. The press were really after them but I think he was the one behind it all. Didn't his wife have a go at him in a book?" Yes, I say, but she had suffered considerably at his hands over many years. He shrugs. If there is one group of people he does not have sympathy for, it is former wives.

Nick Faldo is another Trump hero. He imagines every English schoolboy wants to be him. "No? He's not a big hero over here?" Not really, I say. Schoolboys generally worship footballers rather than golfers. Then again, he didn't treat his wife too well. "He treated her well financially," he counters.

"I respect Nick Faldo because he is a champion. You may not like the guy, but you have to respect him." He also respects Margaret Thatcher, Frank Sinatra and Bob Hope. "To

stay at the top in that kind of industry..." he shakes his head in amazement. But the person whom Trump considers the greatest survivor of is the Queen. "Forty years without a single mistake," he says incredulously.

The lunch is being eaten fast, consumed rather than relished. The lamb and potatoes have been vacuumed up. He orders his favourite drink, Diet Coke. Then the pudding trolley arrives, along with his right-hand woman, Norma Feoderer. "What's that sucker in the middle?" he asks pointing to an elegant mango soufflé.

"Have you got any of your famous rice pudding?" They haven't, but they have bread and butter pudding.

'People have confidence in what I do. They love me to come to their area'

"What is this? This is delicious," he says, with real pleasure, persuading Feoderer to try some.

She wants to know if Trump would like a professional to play with at Turnberry, where he is hoping up for a quick round of golf the next day. He certainly would. What is his handicap? "It used to be a scratch. Now it's five. I used to be a good golfer."

A day off is a rare thing for the Donald, as his former wife, Ivana, called him. His claim that he is no workaholic comes before I have even asked the question. But before London, he completed a round of 66 presentations in less than four weeks. After London it is on to Paris. "I know you can get into trouble if you keep on working," Trump says. "But it's my life. I enjoy my work and I know how to do it."

Work for Trump means hotels, apartment blocks and casinos, and linking them all is his number one passion, property. Mention of the word seems to switch on an adrenalin tap. "When I went \$8.8bn in debt, it was second only to Olympia

& York. The difference was, I had great property. I think Canary Wharf (Olympia & York's nemesis) is a great building - probably the highest quality in London - but it is not in a good location.

"You get a reputation in life and sometimes it's not so good. My reputation is for quality. I go for the best locations and the best quality. People have confidence in what I do. Everybody loves me to come to their area."

"In England your past architecture is some of the greatest in the world. You have got great country homes and great estates and town houses but you have not captured the idea of glamour."

But rich English people tend to aspire to live in old property. I interject. "People used to think that in New York until I built Trump Tower. Now they pay an average of \$1,000 a square foot to live there. London is ready for something like I do."

He is suddenly taken with this idea. Can I suggest any sites? Where is the top location in London? It has to be freehold. He is not interested in any of this leasehold nonsense. He must also be able to build high. I suggest the ugly barracks overlooking Hyde Park might do. He arranges with Savills, his London agents, to see it the next day.

In the meantime, where would this man who loves quality property like to live if he could choose anywhere in the world? "Well, I have Mar-a-Lago which is the number one estate in the US. San Simeon is number two. It's in the heart of Palm Beach. When it was built in the 1920s they spent \$20m. They went to the most beautiful places in the world and got ideas and took them back and recreated them - but better. I have ceilings of carved gold - not paint, but bullion."

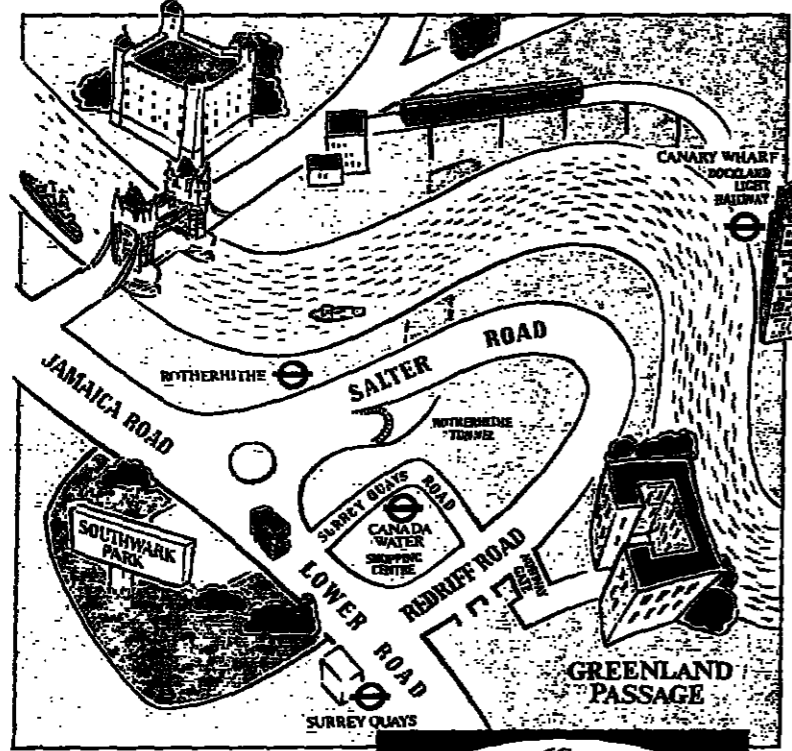
Residents of Trump International are not being offered that level of luxury, but they are getting a top quality fit-out. "I understand one thing," Trump says. "There is a difference between a man buying for business and buying personally. I have seen people who will kill in business for an extra tickle and yet will spend \$5m for a great apartment the next day. They just want the best."

Is he the same? "You bet."

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The cottage was reputedly lived in by P.H. Emerson, the well known "Broads" photographer and by Arthur Rackham, painter and illustrator. The cottage is at present stored in a barn near Wells in Somerset, where it can easily be viewed.
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COUNTRY RENTALS

Boltholes for the smart set - at a price

When Robin Paterson of Cluttons London Residential took over the Hamptons estate agency chain in February he picked country rentals as a growth area.

Cluttons had been conspicuously successful at selling new developments in London to overseas investors and running the rental business for them.

The house cost £425,000 and the monthly rent is put at £3,500 a month. They have also recently sold a two-bedroom, two-bathroom flat in a new development in Ascot to a UK investment buyer for £155,000.

When such a house does come up for rent Blanchard has a list of at least 20 potential tenants to call. Such is the shortage of this kind of property that she finds Londoners will take on a house to rent before they have even sold their own property.

'A good period house in Hampshire is as rare to find to rent as it is to buy'

Two factors have affected prospects in the London commuter zone. The past year has seen a growing trend for international companies to prune their relocation budgets.

Cluttons in Oxford, says rental advertisements for country properties now take up nearly three pages of the local newspaper.

Strutt and Parker is offering Quendon Hall, in Essex, for £30,000 a year. It was once the home of Lord and Lady Incheague



Strutt and Parker is offering Quendon Hall, in Essex, for £30,000 a year. It was once the home of Lord and Lady Incheague

Horstbrook Hall in Staffordshire is available through Savills

Cluttons in Oxford, says rental advertisements for country properties now take up nearly three pages of the local newspaper. "Ten years ago you would have been lucky to have seen three properties, let alone three pages," says Jonathan Scott-Smith.

which acts for buyers, includes all these factors in its investment analyses and comes up with typical net yields of nearer 6 per cent.

One bill increasingly being added to the rent is the water rates, which landlords traditionally used to pay.

new market has emerged in properties which are available to borrow rather than to buy. One of the most spectacular, in terms of its lineage, was Barmwell, the country home of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester which Savills let last year.

international businessmen based in London who use them for entertaining and family weekends. The cost, depending on the exact location, can be anything from £30,000 upwards.

with nearly 7,000 sq ft of accommodation and is just 37 miles from London. At £42,000 a year S and P has West Park, at Rockbourne, in Hampshire, available to rent from one to five years.

pool built by Charles II for Nell Gwynne. The house has four reception rooms, three bedroom suites and a guest suite and is available part-furnished for £3,500 a month.

Advertisement for Octagon Real Estate, featuring 'An Outstanding Investment in Quality' and 'Chapel Square' development. Includes details about various properties and contact information for John Powell and Partner.

Advertisement for Enton Hall, featuring 'Phase 1 of the Development of 31 Two and Three Bedroom Luxury Apartments and Cottages near Godalming, Surrey'. Includes details about the development and contact information for Egerton.

Advertisement for London & Country Properties, featuring a list of properties for sale and rent. Includes contact information for Strutt & Parker.

Advertisement for Durrants Real Estate, featuring 'Suffolk Spekhall, nr. Halesworth Mixed Dairy/Arable Farm'. Includes details about the farm and contact information for Durrants.

Advertisement for Kent/Sussexborder, featuring '6 Miles Tunbridge Wells'. Includes details about the property and contact information for John Powell and Partner.

Advertisement for Brailsford, featuring 'Brailsford nr. Ashbourne Derbyshire'. Includes details about the property and contact information for Egerton.

Advertisement for USA, featuring 'Building Sun Castles near the Beach in Florida'. Includes details about the property and contact information for Egerton.

Advertisement for Fairstead Farm, featuring 'Fairstead Farm 263 Acres (106 Hectares)'. Includes details about the farm and contact information for Durrants.

SOUTH AFRICA



The Houghton Estate, described by agents Savills as a 'unique opportunity for diplomats, advertising agents, architects doctors and corporations'



The Houghton Estate's conservatory/office block built on three levels

High returns versus high security

Anne Spackman on the expansion of South Africa's 'safe' houses

If your company offered you a job in Johannesburg tomorrow, where might you live? In Hong Kong, your only option is a rented apartment in New York, it is that or a family house out of the city. But for most people, South Africa - and Johannesburg in particular - is uncharted territory.

Since television pictures of the city have tended to show its buildings as a backdrop to a riot, it should come as no surprise to learn that the most important feature of any Johannesburg property is its security. Ask any estate agent about the virtues of a house and the level of security is mentioned first. In a new development, that would normally entail a perimeter wall topped with broken glass or barbed wire, security cameras and a 24-hour armed guard on the gate. That is before you get into the house itself.

Most new houses in Gauteng, as the region is now called, are built in cluster developments - private estates of detached houses within a secure bound-

ary. City workers drive out in the morning, park in a secure car park below their office and return home without strolling around town for a sandwich or a drink. They are too scared of being mugged.

These privations, of course, apply in cities worldwide but, in Johannesburg, the compensation, once within your compound, is a high standard of living. For the price of a two-bedroom, two-bathroom London flat, you can buy a four-bedroom detached house with a garden and swimming pool in one of the city's smart northern suburbs. The only problem is that, with the rand falling, you might want to rent rather than buy and the cost comparison is far less favourable in the rental market.

South Africa has no tradition of rented property. It is a land of owner-occupiers - at least, for those who have any money. The few properties that used to be available for rent came unfurnished in the strictest sense: they would not even include a cooker.

Now, with the steady influx

of overseas companies opening offices in Johannesburg, there is heavy demand for good quality, secure, furnished rental accommodation. The construction industry is working hard to meet it.

But, in the meantime, rents are high. Most overseas workers will pay around 10,000 rand a month (£1,200) for a typical cluster house. For R2m (£300,000), you could buy one of the best houses in the city. Some of the newest developments are, not surprisingly, being bought by investors taking advantage of the favourable yields.

Pam Golding Properties, the agent which dominates the top of the South African property market, is selling just such a development at Roman Close in the premiere Hyde Park area of Johannesburg. The two-storey houses have three or four reception rooms, a swimming pool, good gardens - and very good security - and are priced at between R1.8m and R2.5m.

With land so plentiful, there is no pressure to build apart-

ments rather than houses, although the government has been keen to increase housing density in the prosperous suburbs. Ronald Enrik, of Pam Golding, says a number of home owners are responding to that by building cottages for rental within their grounds.

Hyde Park lies to the north

With land so plentiful, there is no pressure to build flats

of Johannesburg, where the city's smart suburbs merge with the prosperous Sandton conurbation. Some financial companies are looking to relocate their offices from downtown Johannesburg to Sandton, where security is less of a worry. As a result, what was once a purely residential area is becoming a residential and

commercial mix. Agents are advertising properties which include an office building and a home. Anne Mackie, Savills' agent in Johannesburg, is selling the Houghton Estate, which comprises an eight-bedroom 1930s house, a guest cottage and a newly built three-storey office, with parking for 40 cars. The price is R4.7m.

The Swiss bank, UBS, is one of the firms considering relocating to Sandton. Mark Childs, who heads their South African operation, thinks there will be a general migration in that direction. He lives north of the city in a four-bedroom modern house with a swimming pool in a cluster development. The company pays around R10,000 to rent the house, which would cost less than R1m to buy. "When I think what I'm getting for my home in London, the rental yields here are amazing," Childs says.

Those who work in the finance sector may already have been offered a move to South Africa, such is the rate of expansion. Other companies

that have opened offices in the region include Chase Manhattan, Barings, SBC Warburg, Flenings, Bank of America and Hambros. The British were the first to move in and remain the number one international purchasers of property. The Americans come next, with the Malaysians close behind.

European manufacturers such as BMW and Siemens are also moving in, opening new sites on the corridor linking Johannesburg with Pretoria, 40 miles away. Childs believes that, in five years, the area will be transformed.

Amid all this energetic progress, people working in South Africa still find plenty of time for fun - and, first and foremost, that means sport. When Peter Caroe, of Knight Frank, had some South African agents visiting last month their first question was could he find tickets for the FA Cup final.

In Johannesburg, the banks are most likely to be found in the gym at Sandton Towers or at the Johannesburg Country Club in the evenings. At the

weekend, they are likely to enjoy some high-level corporate hospitality at a cricket or rugby match.

Then there is the wildlife. Mackie points out that, in Cape Town, you have the mountains and the sea. "If you are in Cape Town, you could be anywhere in the world," she says, "but, if you are in Johannesburg, you are in Africa. The great attraction is to have a *piet-a-terre* in the bush to use for yourself or for corporate hospitality."

Mackie is selling a new development of seven private sites in the Madikwe Game Reserve, three hours' drive from the city. For R2m, you get a lodge to sleep 12, a Land Rover and tracker and the chance to see elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo and rhino. There is interest from Malaysian and Chinese companies.

But the main overseas buyers in Johannesburg and in South Africa as a whole are the British. London is the only city outside the country where Pam Golding Properties has its own office. Joanna Leonard, who runs it, says the British have

stopped window shopping and started buying. Those going to Johannesburg are likely to be corporates looking for relocation help, whereas those buying for themselves are going to Cape Town.

"These are mostly wealthy individuals who fancy the lifestyle," she says. "They are looking to spend around £300,000 to £400,000 and to keep a home in England."

For all the publicity surrounding the arrival of Mark Thatcher and Viscount Althorp in the Cape, the number of international customers buying in South Africa is still small. "The flights in and out of South Africa are full," says Peter Caroe of Knight Frank. "There is a lot of research going on. But, when it comes to buyers, we are talking about a handful of people."

In Johannesburg (code: 0027-11) Ronald Enrik, Pam Golding Properties, 225 0360; Anne Mackie, Savills, 483 2052. In London (code 0171), Joanna Leonard, Pam Golding Properties, 629 2282; Peter Caroe, Knight Frank, 829 3171.

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A paradise home in Bali or a villa in Spain

How long does it take to get to that special weekend retreat, asks Rosalind Russell. And is it worth the time and money?

David Bowie did it last year. Film director Roman Polanski is doing it this year. Both have decided to abandon once cherished holiday retreats, having stumbled on one of life's bitter ironies. If you are wealthy enough to own several homes, you are probably working too hard to enjoy them.

David Bowie - who owns homes in Switzerland and Los Angeles, has a boat on the Mediterranean and an eye on a property in Umbria - sold his \$1m fake home on Mustique in the Caribbean, asking a further \$1m for the contents. His neighbours included Princess Margaret and Mick Jagger. The Indonesian-style house and grounds had been three years and 14 cargo container loads in the making. But Bowie and his model wife, Iman, rarely had time to fly to the Caribbean.

It makes sense to sell the property to someone who will appreciate it and use it more regularly, the singer told his agents, Pereds.

Polanski's three-storey villa on Ibiza stands on a hill overlooking the sea close to the Roca Lissa golf course. When asking Sotheby's International Realty to find a buyer with \$2m, he told them his workload meant he would only spend two or three weeks a year in the house.

"The magic figure is 2 1/2 hours' flying time," says Naomi Greatbanks, of Hamptons International. Effectively, the journey takes more like half a day once you include driving to the airport and check-in, but psychologically it is a quick journey and one which makes a second home worthwhile.

For British-based buyers, that draws Palma, Lisbon, Toulouse, Nice and Lyon within the magic circle. Gibraltar, Faro and Malaga are only a few minutes over. It is naive of people to imagine they will drive long distances to a holiday home, says Naomi. She adds that Hamptons have pulled out of once-popular areas of France such as the Dordogne. Only Gascony, accessible from Toulouse, and Provence and the Côte d'Azur are holding firm, say Hamptons. "Almost



They went in search of paradise - and found Bali: five airlines fly directly from London to Bali

everything is for sale in the Dordogne. People just cannot get rid of property," she says. "They are desperate to sell. But when we advertised a \$550,000 house in Provence, we had more than 100 inquiries and have booked six visits." The house is one of a pair offered in the south of France. It is recently built, painted peach, with lavender coloured shutters. There is a large wine

cellar, pool and 7 1/2 acres. La Tuilerie is a restored Provençal pottery mill, with exposed beams, white walls and handmade terracotta floor tiles. The six-bedroom house, with two swimming pools in an acre of grounds, is for sale at FF3.5m. For Caroline and James Lewis, both in the film industry, a door-to-door, five-hour journey means they can visit their six-bedroom villa at Vald-

errama, Sotogrande, in Spain, up to six times a year. The family stays for five weeks in summer. Golf is one of the biggest attractions of Valdeerrama, where Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, the supermarket chain, built a house overlooking the third green. Sir Ian travels down at Easter, in the summer and for the Volvo Masters at the end of October.

The Lewises have owned La Leonera, 20 minutes from Gibraltar airport, for 10 years and have filled it with antiques. There are early morning flights from Gatwick and return flights on Monday morning, so that they can be back in London for mid-day meetings. The gardens are tended by a full-time gardener. They have, however, decided

to build on another piece of land in the area and have asked Hamptons to find a buyer for their present property. The price is \$1.1m. Developers in Florida have been struggling to make inroads with second home owners. But with a 12-hour flight time, it is attractive only to those who can afford to spend months, rather than days, in their properties.

Portugal is an easier option for the spur-of-the-moment weekend break. Frankie and John Woods make the journey from Devon - using Exeter airport - to Faro in five hours. But (to prove the exception to the rule) they have also frequently driven down from Santander to their four-bedroom house, Quinta De Madeira, in the Algarve. With their five children in

the car, they have covered a daunting 500 miles a day.

They spend two months there in summer. John Woods flying home in between to run his manufacturing business. The 100-year-old farmhouse was restored and extended by the Woods. When not in use, it brings in \$2,000 a week in holiday rental fees. It is for sale at \$375,000.

For some, of course, prosaic considerations do not apply. In 1989, Bradley Gardner was lying on a rock in the middle of a river in Bali wondering why he did not do this more often. Unlike other holiday romances, Gardner's love affair with Bali lasted. The British born, Hong Kong-based businessman built his own Balinese-style house in the hills, an hour's drive from the airport.

Five years on, he has developed the Begawan Giri estate and is building seven more houses, each with private pool, gardens and natural spring water, which will sell for between \$2m and \$3m each.

It is the first development of its kind in Bali. Electrical vehicles only will be allowed on the estate. Locally hand-carved furniture and antiques will be installed. Sunrises, sunsets and even wind flows have been accounted for in the design of each house.

Five airlines fly directly from London to Bali. But who will buy such expensive, individual houses so far from home? "People with a high net worth," Gardner says. "Those who think there is more to a holiday home than a sunbat, who have been everywhere else. And who do not want to sit around someone else's pool."

So smitten is he with his development, he has given up his retail business to oversee the project full time. Bali, he claims, is the Hawaii of south east Asia, but its magic lies in the culture and religion.

"We still have a house in England," says Newcastle-born Gardner. "We came back for Christmas and remembered why we left. Bali is paradise."

Sotheby's 0171-493 8080; Hamptons International 0171-493 8222; Begawan Giri inquiries to Matusuda Collection in Hong Kong 00852-2566 2282.

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GARDENING

Don't let flowers have all their own way

Roy Barnes enthuses about vegetable growing

There used to be a well-established aristocratic principle, encouraged by the Gertrude Jekyll school of gardening, that vegetable growing was an inferior, unaesthetic sort of craft to be left to the vulgar.

Vegetable plots were to be hidden behind a wall or fence with the compost heaps, and kept away from the "pleasure" garden. Modern gardens have become so small that in this age of cheap supermarket ready-washed, packaged food, the vegetable plot has become almost an anachronism.

However, supermarkets do not sell everything. Keeping their eye, as they must, on the bottom line and their shareholders, they are firmly in the business of moving quick turn-over goods to a mass market - fine for potatoes, red or white, cabbages and carrots, but can you buy *Scorzoneria* there?

Scorzoneria hispanica, common viper's grass, is a beautiful perennial, which takes up little space and can be grown anywhere with pride. It has attractive strap-shaped leaves, long black roots, and tall, lemon yellow daisy flowers. The leaves can be eaten young in salads, the roots, which taste something like asparagus, are peeled to reveal pure white flesh before boiling and, if some plants are left to flower, they will delight the eye well into the summer.

Twenty years ago I observed a common asparagus plant growing between a dwarf ever palmetum and a eunymous *fortunata*. According to received beliefs, it had no business to be there and should have been tucked away with its brothers and sisters in its own bed at the other side of the garden, but I liked it where it was, so there it has remained.

Each year it provides us with edible shoots in the spring and decorative sprays of fern-like fronds for the rest of the year. Botanically speaking, all plants are vegetables, some edible and some not; there is no reason why the attractive edible ones should not be grown in the



Growing these giant pumpkins is a science in which luck plays no part

By Colum

same bed as the attractive non-edible ones.

A handsome and delicious biennial that you will not find in the supermarkets is sea kale or Swiss Chard, a leaf beet which grows hardy, shining deep-green leaves with bright white ribs; its near cousins and equally good to eat, is the flaming-red Ruby Chard. The chards have all the taste and value of spinach with none of that fussy little plant's failings.

The globe artichoke is a majestic perennial for the flower border, standing up to 6ft tall, spreading its exotic deeply cut leaves and carrying the king of all thistle heads. You eat the buds, gently boiled for half an hour, pick off the leaves and chew the base of each leaf, flavoured with butter or French dressing, then remove the bunch of embryonic petals from the choke and eat one of the greatest gourmet delights known to man; but do leave some to flower. We favour Purple Globe, which

adds a deep colour to the border.

French runner beans can be bought in the supermarket, but what about the prolific climbing Italians. These should have been sown by now, outdoors in April is the best time, to crop in early June. But it has been such a late year in England that you could still sow them now. Merchant of Venice will grow your yellow flowers and fruits. *Viola Cornetti* will produce purple flowers and fruits - they assume the usual bean green colour during cooking. In June you can sow some stringless runner beans such as *Butler* or the white-flowered *Desire*, which go on until the first frosts.

Climbing beans will beautify any bare area, the kitchen wall or an old fence, but a good idea is to plant a columnar apple or pear tree as a permanent feature for some of your beans to grow up. The modern hybrid apple and pear trees take up little space, grow straight as a pole and bear fruit on the

trunk. Most are self-fertile and will grow in almost any part of the UK, so you could enjoy the blossom in the spring, the fruit in the autumn and your colourful beans all summer long.

Beans are legumes (plants that have "pea" flowers) which, unlike other plants, do not take up nitrogen from the soil. They extract nitrogen from the air and fix it in their roots. Do not pull up the dead bean plants, cut them at ground level and leave the roots to enrich the soil for the next crop. It is worth composting all your dead plants, together with all kitchen waste that will rot down and can be used as a mulch. If you are short of space, use bin liners with ventilation holes and store in a dustbin.

The foliage, flowers and fruits of many vegetables look well in a flower border or grown together in any space you have available. It is well worth growing a few that are not readily available in the shops.

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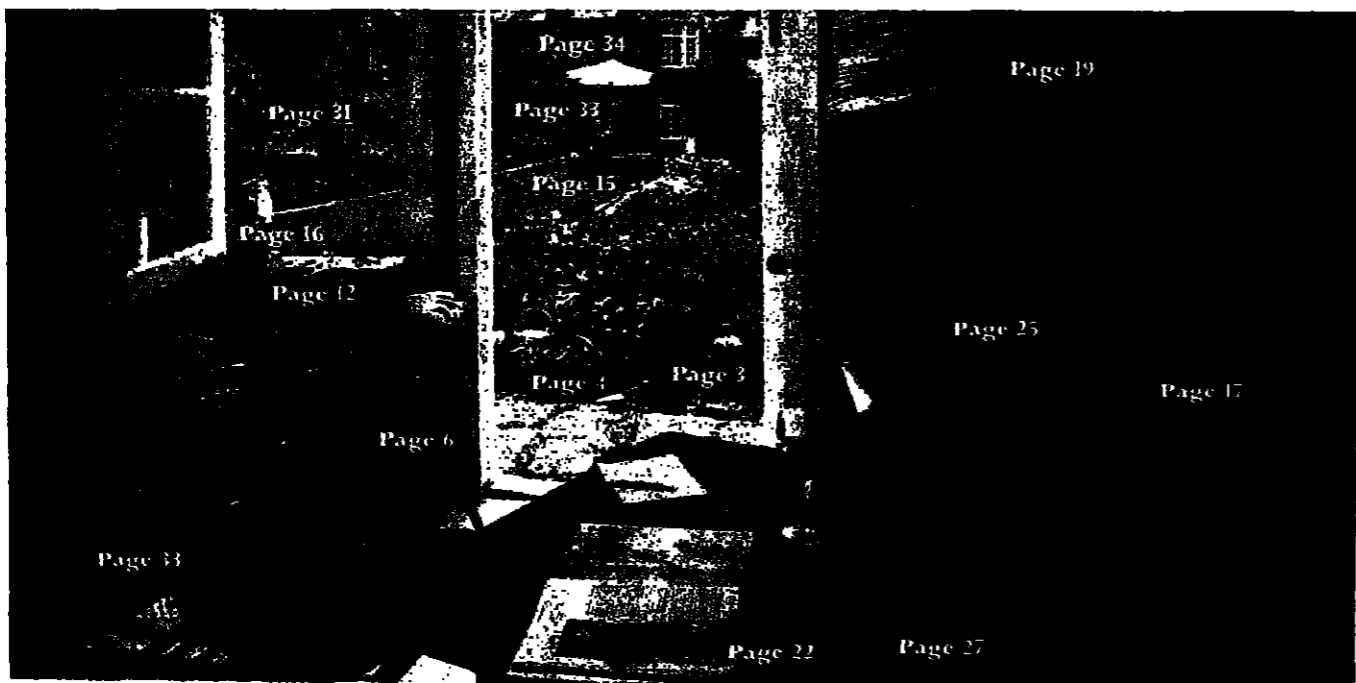
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BERKSHIRE



Speen House, near Newbury: the price has been cut to £900,000



Hazel Cottage at Chieveley: Drewatt-Neate is asking £220,000



The Malt House, at Burghclere, a 17th century house with 7 acres: John D Wood is asking £575,000

Why Newbury will become a nicer place

Gerald Cadogan considers the future effects of a bypass on the area around an English country town

Gridlock numbs the old market town of Newbury, Berkshire, often striking several times a day. That is why the Newbury bypass, due to be ready for traffic in 1998, is being built - to the joy of many inhabitants. Environmental protesters have waged a vigorous campaign against it but it is, nevertheless, going ahead. But how will the bypass affect property values?

The town has long been a way-station on the road from London to Bath, the A4, which the M4 has supplanted three miles to the north of the town, removing the east-west through-traffic. The trouble is caused by the north-south traffic along the A34 on the east edge of the town. The dual-carriageway ring road, rich in roundabouts,

becomes a single-carriageway, creating a notorious bottleneck. The road, crammed by hundreds of trucks every day, cannot cope. "An accident on the A34 means gridlock 2 miles out," says Richard Trustram, Eves of Strutt & Parker. After endless argument, the route for the new bypass was fixed to the west of Newbury, starting from a little south of the A34/A4 junction, passing close to the villages of Donnington, Bagnor and Speen and then running on the line of an old railway to rejoin the present A34 where the dual-carriageway begins for the stretch down to the M3. An ongoing archaeological survey by the Wessex Archaeological Trust has found two sites (one Mesolithic, one Roman) to dig before the road hides them. Another Roman site close to the road will have a protec-

tive membrane to allow for any dig in the future. When the road is ready, we shall see how effective the planning against pollution and noise proves to be. The Highways Agency, having cut down 10,000 trees (including immature trees and shrubs), will plant 100,000, with many beeches typical of west Berkshire. It also plans other runs and badger tunnels, and nine balancing ponds with self-interceptors to remove the oil in the run-off from the road. Noise proved to be a big problem with the M40, which led to hundreds of claims for loss of value in Warwickshire and Oxfordshire. At Newbury no claims will be possible until the road has been there for a year. But with the help of the trees and a low-noise blackdrop, it should not be so bad.

All the same, with the prevailing wind from the west, noise is bound to drift eastwards over the villages by the new road towards Newbury. It may be no worse in town than now. Tim Barton, of agents Drewatt-Neate, who has lived in Newbury all his life, says: "Everybody will feel better when the traffic and hassle are gone." He hopes that in the future Newbury may attract the sort of businesses which have turned it down - because of the horrors of the A34 - in favour of Basingstoke or Swindon. "The town has suffered," he says, noting that people find it hard to believe that the road will be built. The gain for the east side of Newbury will be immediate easy access to the town, which will eventually result in higher house prices - as

happened in Chieveley, a rural backwater on the downs, transformed after 1972 when it found itself only a mile from the M4/A34 junction, and now a prime spot. Drewatt-Neate offers a pretty thatched cottage for £220,000. East of Newbury, the best house on the market is the Old Rectory at Upper Woodhampton, of Queen Anne period and listed grade II, with fine gardens in 15 acres. Strutt & Parker asks for offers of more than £1.2m. The agent also lists two 20th century houses at nearby Bucklebury, each with a paddock - one at £250,000, the other at more than £300,000. The area that will probably benefit most from the new link is south-west of Newbury in the direction of Andover, where inhabitants will have a quicker journey to the

M4 and should not have noise. Close to the line of the road is problematical. On behalf of the Highways Agency, which bought the house under a blight notice, Drewatt-Neate and S & P offer a Georgian big house at Speen with 12 acres. The trouble is that the road will pass in a deep cutting 300 yards away, which has slashed the price to £600,000. It might be wiser to pay £82,500 for a first-floor flat in an old Georgian coaching inn in the middle of Speen (Drewatt-Neate). Further off the road line is Well Cottage (John D Wood, £162,000) at Newtown Common on the present A34, which may get noise but will be free of through traffic. Nearby, a priory house from the same agent is the Malt House, at Burghclere, a 17th century house with 7 acres

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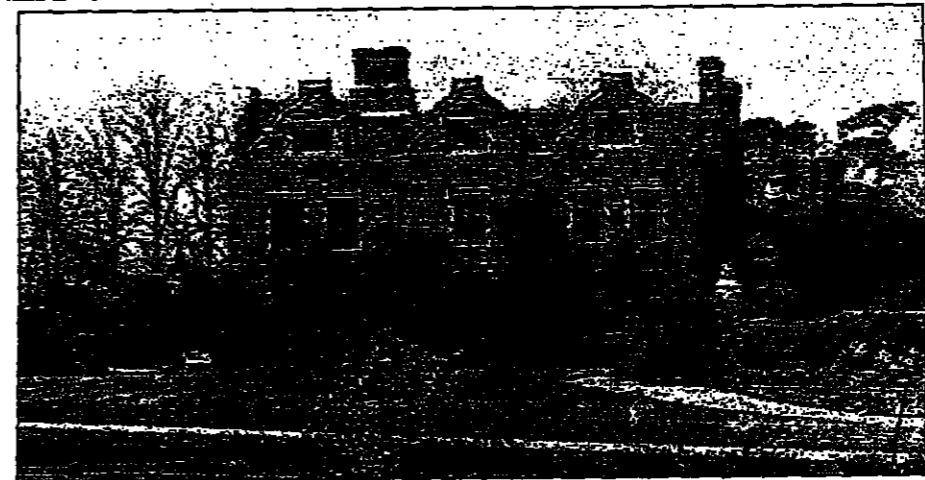
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All of which goes to show that, whatever the car, a sensitive right foot is the economy device that really counts. The Omega CDX estate is a big car with a moderate thirst because it is a diesel; its 2.5-litre turbo-charged and intercooled engine is sourced from BMW. Apart from the Omega and, of course, BMW's own 3-Series and 5-Series models, the same engine also powers the new Range Rover diesels.

There are some even more economical diesels - notably the direct-injection 6-cylinder

VW/Audi engine, also used by Volvo, and the Rover four-cylinder - but none is smoother than the BMW in-line six. For sheer urbanity it matches the naturally aspirated Mercedes-Benz 3-litre. Although its output is marginally lower (130 against 136 horsepower), it develops 30 per cent more pulling power at much lower revolutions.

This plays a vital part in making the Omega CDX estate my idea of a proper grand touring car. In the first place, it seats five in great comfort with a vast amount of luggage space and is air conditioned. Its acceleration and overtaking pick-up are as vigorous as a petrol-engined car's, yet at 80 mph/130 kph it is drifting along in near silence with the engine turning over at a mere 2,700 rpm.

Even if driven gently, the Omega's transmission stays in third gear until nearly 50 mph/80 kph, when the tachometer needle flicks back to little more than 1,600 rpm as it slips into top. From which it follows

that motoring on open country roads at the 60 mph/96 kph legal limit and 2,000 rpm is sheer relaxation.

After several weeks I still find the steering feels dead around the straight-ahead position. It is the Omega estate's only quirk, because whether running light or fully loaded, it handles, corners and rides like an executive saloon.

The load floor with the rear seats folded is long and wide enough to take a single bed - the acid test for a genuinely large estate car. As the front passenger seat backrest also folds, something narrow like a ladder up to 230cm/114in long can also be fitted inside. Anything bulkier has to go on top but roof rails are standard equipment. So are a stereo cassette with CD autochanger, cruise control and ultrasonic security alarm. Build quality and finish is what one expects of a medium priced German-made car.

Information like the time, ambient temperature, average/instant fuel consumption and

radio programme are displayed so prominently that anyone who cannot take them in at a glance should not be driving.

Prices of less elaborately equipped Omega turbo-diesel estates start at £21,850; the CDX costs £27,150.

Every tyre is a compromise, none more so than the kind fitted to very high performance road-going cars. They have to stand up to the stress of violent acceleration and speeds of twice the legal limit on a clear piece of *Autobahn* or, more likely, on a racing circuit rented for a day of playing with other big boys in their expensive toys.

On corners, they must grip like limpets and steer with pinpoint precision whether the road is dry or streaming with water. On the motorway, they must run quietly; and, on country roads, stifle the shock of impacts with potholes, drain covers and broken-edged tarmac.

All of which provides tyre designers and rubber technologists with their greatest chal-



The Vauxhall Omega CDX turbo-diesel estate: combines performance with economy

lenge. Very high performance tyres have improved enormously in recent years. You no longer have to suffer a ride like that of a tumbler to enjoy the ultimate in handling and road-holding, or sacrifice wet grip to achieve reasonably long life.

One of the leading producers of these premier cru tyres is Bridgestone, a Japanese com-

pany which bought Firestone of the US eight years ago and manufactures tyres worldwide. I compared its latest S-02 tyre with its S-01 predecessor at the Motor Industry Research Association's proving ground in the Midlands last week.

On water drenched circular tracks with surface grip ranging from not much better than

black ice to normal wet-weather motorway, the S-02 held on at higher speeds than the S-01, had a gentler break-away and gave more warning it was about to let go.

Even better tyres are bound to come along in a few years time but at present, Bridgestone's S-02 has no superiors and few, if any, equals. More

than 30 sizes of S-02 in aspect ratios from 55 series to 30 series are available. Four S-02 tyres in size 205-55-16 for a VW Golf GTI would cost around £300. As a Ferrari or Lamborghini owner would have to pay more than £2,000 for a set of 285-30-18s, clipping a kerb could be a financial disaster.

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Fishing / Tom Fort

A wild May day on the Piddle

It seemed a sound plan: to beard the boffin by the river, skim off from him the necessary smattering of science, and then get down to some serious mayfly fishing on a new river of high repute.

Circumstances, in the form of a skyfall of rain-swollen clouds driven in by a pounding southerly gale, dictated modifications to the strategy.

But at the end of as wild a late May day as I can recall, I was satisfied. There had been good science, some mayfly, even some trout, and a most enchanting stream.

This is the Piddle, which decorates a string of villages in slumbersome Wessex, before joining its big sister, the Frome, for a leisurely approach to Poole Harbour.

Victorian sensibilities apparently found the "Piddle" suffix and prefix for these settlements objectionable, hence Tolpuddle, Alfpuddle and so on.

As a trout stream, the Piddle does not aspire to mix socially with its grand cousins, the Test, Itchen and Kennet. It is like a small country cousin with a comical name. But its breeding is as refined as theirs, for "like them" it runs through chalk. And, as I found, it has something to teach them.

It is tiny, much of it hardly wider than the length of my fly rod, although the water has a surprising depth and vigour. Its Lilliputian proportions make it ideal as a laboratory for anyone interested in studying how a chalkstream works, which is what great brains from the Game Conservancy Trust have been doing for the past few years.

River management is a subtle and improperly understood subject, and the fruits of the Trust's labours should be required reading for anyone whose concern for our much-abused south country trout streams extends beyond the filling of freezers and the harvesting of annual subscriptions.

The starting point is something we easily overlook: that our countryside and Nature, in its sense of original, unaltered condition, have nothing much to do with each other. Green and infinitely pleasing the countryside may be, natural it is not. Everything is shaped by us: fields, hedgerows, woods, water meadows, streams winding between nodding willows.

A trout river left to fend for itself is a river left to die. Abandoned, it becomes silted, its banks trampled into extinction by livestock or choked with trees, blotting out the necessary light. The aim of the Trust's scientists, Nick Giles and David Summers, was to discover how best to help the native brown trout, and to sustain its ideal habitat.

I need not present a detailed account of what I endured as Summers, with lucid passion, expounded what they had been up to. Suffice it to say that the rain was relentless and unpleasant, and I must have been very interested to have lasted as long as I did. I will

try to present the lessons as simply and clearly as I can.

For the wild trout to flourish, they need a sufficiency of clean water (abstraction is a problem on the Piddle, but not in Summer's view, the main one). They also need clean gravel to spawn on, pools to shelter in, an adequate food supply and protection from predators.

The good doctor's powerfully articulated belief is that on a small stream, the greatest single inhibiting factor is having the banks open to cattle. They have big feet, clumsy manners, insatiable appetites. Nothing useful grows where their hooves land, and what should be firm barriers enclosing a lively flow of water become a flattened bog.

So, fence off your water, and let the grasses and weeds sprout up. If necessary, speed up the current by narrowing the banks, and building little

'I was surprised to find that the rain had eased, and I had enough strength left to fish'

weirs and groynes. Exterminate pike with pitiless energy, for in a little river they do dreadful slaughter. Shout your head off at the water companies which threaten your supplies (on the Piddle, Wessex Water are funding the Trust project). And encourage anglers whose idea of fun is to catch trout of a size proper to their habitat, admire them, and put them back.

An enlightened fellow called Richard Slocock has done all this on the Piddle. He imposed "catch and release" long before it became a moral football in the angling world. He did so because it was the only way to reconcile commercial exploitation with the preservation of the native stock. And he has made a splendid job of it.

At the end of my course of instruction from David Summers, I was surprised to find that the rain had eased, and that I had enough strength left to fish. I was directed to the lowest of the Slocock beats, at Culesze, where I found a modest mayfly hatch in progress, with the trout sipping daintily. I had three, up to just over 1lb. They were fine fat fish that belonged to their water, and they dashed back with a fierce kick as I let them go. I was beamed up no end.

The Game Conservancy Trust runs a consultancy service for fishery owners. Tel: 01425-652381. Richard Slocock owns or controls several beats on the Piddle as well as the Frome. He has five trout-stocked lakes. The fishing is available on a day ticket basis. Tel: 01305-849490.

ARTS

It is not uncommon for an artist to remain not so much obscured by his peers as considered always in relation to them, one of the team. It is only when circumstance forces it upon us that we see what should have been obvious all along. So it is with 70-year-old Leon Kossoff, whose first major retrospective is being held at the Tate. Here is a true and distinctive artist, of his time to be sure and conditioned by what and whom he has seen and known, but quite as much his own man as any, and to be seen in his own right.

When, some 30 years ago, Ronald Kitaj coined the term "the School of London", he clearly used it in an open and inclusive sense. "There are," he wrote, "ten or more people in this town, or not far away, of world class, including my friends of the abstract persuasion. In fact, I think there is a substantial School of London." Amen to that. But since then, others have narrowed the usage to mean but a handful of figurative and more or less expressionist painters - Bacon and Freud, Kitaj himself and the late Michael Andrews, Auerbach and Kossoff.

As a group it is interesting enough, if only for the evident disparateness of the artists' work rather than for any ground they might share. Kossoff alone has suffered by the constant, lax insistence upon a supposed association, most especially in relation to his long-time friend, Frank Auerbach, with whom he had sat in David Bomberg's life class at the Borough Polytechnic in the early 1950s.

But last year two things happened to bring him out of the others' shadows. First there was the Venice Biennale, at which he was the UK's principal representative and sole occupant of the British Pavilion. And then there was the *From London* exhibition, shown at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art in Edinburgh and elsewhere, which brought that inner School-group of London together. Both events finally brought home the utter distinctiveness of Kossoff's work.

Now, with this Tate retrospective, we have the whole story, the whole picture, from the mid-50s when his essential method, material and subject-matter first established and resolved themselves, to the present and the deceptively easy mastery of the Spitalfields Church and Embankment Station series.

Kossoff marks himself out from the others at every point. He has nothing of the literary narrative of Kitaj, the savagery of Andrews, the intense objectivity of Freud, the cynical abstracted desperation of Bacon. To Auerbach, of course, he comes much closer, for they travelled much the same course together as young men,



A painter of place and personality, mood and atmosphere: 'Head of Rosalind', 1981, by Leon Kossoff

A talent of his own

William Packer puts the record straight on Leon Kossoff

shared the same interests and the formative example and stimulus of Bomberg's teaching. But their very closeness now points their differences all the more starkly.

For Kossoff is a painter of place and personality, of mood and atmosphere, of a kind which Auerbach has never been. They both find their subjects in the immediate urban scene and in the life and portrait studio. Both work the painted surface in a dense and cluttered impasto, building up the image with a succession of intuitive strokes, overlays, recasts and repetitions. Both insist upon the stuff of the paint as at once a physical actuality and an image, that is to say a conjunction of space and form and light.

But where for Auerbach the interest lies finally in the formal structure and analysis that establishes an ideal image standing independent of its source, with Kossoff we are always with him by the rail-way-cutting, there in the burly-burly of swimming-pool or station concourse. In the studio, these are no reductive, idealised presences but people real and recognisable, for all that the paint is so thick and

the statement so desperate. Is it raining? Is the sun shining? These are questions we would ask only of Kossoff, or he of us. It is not a matter of better or worse, only of difference.

Hawksmoor's great church of Christ Church, Spitalfields is the subject of an extended series that has occupied Kossoff these last ten years, and stands now as his cumulated masterpiece. Never, for all the denseness of his paint and his known earnestness of purpose, has he worked so lightly and with such command. In one of them, set one grey morning in 1990, a small, urgent figure in

blue scurries round the corner beside the church, and it is hardly fanciful to see it for once as an incidental self-portrait.

Whether it is or not, Kossoff's close presence in all his work, alike in the studio with his friends and models and out and about in the city, is undeniable, though it takes this retrospective overview to bring it out. Undetached, unironical, ever self-critical and full of doubt, the engagement is all.

Leon Kossoff: Tate Gallery, Millbank SW1, until September 1.

however, his aesthetic presaged D'Annunzio's notorious vein: sado-masochistic excitement over gross cruelty, especially in exotic and/or sordid situations, in tandem with exacerbated mystical raptures. (Much like Puccini, his senior by five years; but Puccini died before Mussolini rose.)

Iris has all that. A fantasised Japan; an innocent girl at the mercy of brutes; expository apotheosis in a pit of torture. Masagni was not shy of modernism; he tries on some "modern" harmonies and bold orchestration, though only for passing colours. Here he had a touching heroine in Hannah Francis, an anonymous but commanding geisha from Sidonie Winter, a ringingly accomplished tenor in Ian Storey (destined surely to succeed Dennis O'Neill as Best British Italian), and Peter Sibson's astringently funny brotlemaster. Together in an honest staging, they might even have brought the thing off.

There were too many small, deflating breaks, which might have been the fault of the conductor Clive Timms (though he had prepared the individual numbers brightly), or of Stephen Medcalf's parsimonious direction, or just first-night uncertainties. Francis O'Connor's sets were cute; a miniature Alp at either back corner, one topped by the Marchese's castle and the other piled with mini-cottages.

Iris was the sixth of the 14-odd Mascagni operas that followed his first success, *Cavalleria rusticana*, but never equalled it. He lived long enough to become Mussolini's favoured official composer nonetheless. Between early triumph and fascist veneration,

Opera/David Murray

Linda and Iris revived

of the blessed recoveries. Few of us in the Queen Elizabeth Hall had heard *Linda* before, but it sounded excessively familiar. Donizetti's "semiseria" method was to go into his "dramma tragico" mode (as in *Lucia di Lammermoor*) for fraught junctures, whilst lacing them with plain, jolly numbers in *Don Pasquale* style. This hybrid defeats belief: all too clearly, we are listening to a professional craftsman applying his knacks in different and unrelated directions.

To be fair, London is the wrong place to put it on. *Linda* does get occasional revivals in provincial Italian houses, where audiences boast the native connoisseur's apprecia-

tion of singing (and care little about anything else). In these alien circumstances, all six of the Guildhall principals distinguished themselves: especially Sandra Zeltzer's precociously full-blooded and musically artful Linda, Wynne Evans as her glamorous tenor beau Carlo and Michael Dewis's ample, forceful baritone as Linda's heavy father. In lesser but no less jerry-built roles, Philip O'Brien was cheerfully effete as the Marchese who fails to seduce the virginal Linda. Emer McGilloway and Julian Sappe stamped pungent character upon their elders, and Jane Stevenson invested her androgynous *travesti* hurdy-gurdy player - yes! and symbolic, too - with plangent gravity.

It is the most spectacular show in town - wonderfully preserved artifacts, ornately displayed; and that is just the customers. The objects at the Grosvenor House Art & Antiques Fair are equally dazzling.

The fair opened on Thursday and closes next Saturday. In recent years it has been criticised as elitist, a rich man's sweet shop. This is part of its charm. Everything looks expensive, from the dealers to the merchandise. There is the odd item for less than £100 but for many visitors the attraction is the £1m plus items - the rare Breughel the Younger "The Battle between Carnival and Lent" on Johnny van Haften's stand, priced at £1.5m; the Avercamp at Noortman with the same tag; a 2850,000 Canaletto capriccio painted in England on the Colnaghi stand, back at the fair after a four year gap.

And although dealers charge their strongest prices at Grosvenor House, at least the provenance and quality is spot on. Grosvenor House is how the British antiques trade likes to see itself - elegant, sophisticated art; Norman Adams has Chippendale period torchères for up to £100,000; or books: Sam Fogg has the grandest Book of Hours to appear in years for £700,000. After satiation with all these glistening objects you can catch a special bus down to the people's fair at Olympia, open until Sunday evening, dropping off on the way at the International Ceramics Fair at the Park Lane Hotel.

Off the wall/Antony Thorncroft

Sites for sore eyes

Visiting Grosvenor House on Wednesday was Arthur Gilbert who has just given the nation its grandest present for decades - his silver, gold, miro-mosaics and gold box collection acquired over the past 30 years. Gilbert, now 88, was British born but made his fortune in Californian real estate. He has been courted for

years by museums, but the promise of a good display in the vaults of Somerset House by Jacob Rothschild, chairman of the National Heritage Fund, clinched the gift.

The fund has given £15.5m of lottery money to finance the deal, which seems appropriate since an 18th-century national lottery had offices in Somerset House. And at last the government has agreed to move the civil servants out of one of the finest under-exploited 18th-century buildings in London. The treasure will go on show at the new silver gallery at the V&A in November, and move to Somerset House in 1998.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, has acquired tunnel vision. He is still hopeful that a £250m tunnel will preserve the integrity of Stonehenge. He recently suggested that a tunnel hidden

alongside the river at Greenwich would solve the traffic congestion at this other key heritage site; and this week he came up with the idea of another Thames-side tunnel, to remove the ugly roadway approach to the Tower of London as it contemplates filling its moat with water.

In theory Sir Jocelyn's term as heritage supremo ends in April, but heritage secretary Virginia Bottomley has asked him to stay on, and, judging by his enthusiasm, he will. Having whipped English Heritage into shape he is now thinking globally, about world heritage sites, which, nominally, are the creations of UNESCO.

He is currently arranging management plans for the ten world heritage sites on the ten patch, with Ironbridge this week following Hadrian's Wall in a consultation exercise; he has also announced that an

Radio Pain and pleasure

Understood, well worth waking at sixish for: words both familiar and new (Bejman, Donne, a vicar's bell-ringing wife) and a wide range of music (a wonderful Vaughan Williams setting of Housman, Hindu temple bells). Steer pleasure, on a par with *Personal Obsessions*, the series that ended on Saturday with the young man in Edinburgh whose life is an adjunct of the *Radio 4* Song Competition and who, in the tones of Morningside, described conventions of like-minded fans playing the lesser-known numbers (good grief!) from the great institution while he did his Katie Boyle act. Funny and oddity touching.

The week's other pleasures included Lord Jenkins of Hillhead talking about a referendum, or rather trying to pronounce it; excitedly enthusiastic Sarah Dunant, one of nature's earnest fifth-formers, confusing a line from *Macbeth* with Oscar Wilde in *A Good Read*; and a snatch of Pidgin English ("fella gorra lotta rice") which suddenly clarified what Cilla Black has been speaking all her life. This came from *Tales from the Back of Beyond* and a programme about Bristol students seeking a monkey-faced bat with a five-

foot wing-span - not in Bristol, I hasten to add, but in the Solomon Islands.

It was considerably more efficient than the series' opening subject, the marvellously hilarious account of a youthful expedition to the Sahara led by the almost manically optimistic Mick. Narrow escapes included an inadvertent pee in a minefield and a girl called Coralie overturning the van and scraping the skin off a colleague's bottom. Early rumblings of discontent that the leader had not checked the van's roadworthiness were countered by his petulant reproaches at having to do all the work. When he casually mentioned, stranded in the middle of the Sahara, that the van's vendors had said it was not good on sand, I wondered if Alan Ayckbourn had had a hand in the affair. "I don't want you to be too pessimistic. There's no need to call the AA," Mick barked. As one of the group confided to us, "Mick had to wander off with tears in his eyes at one stage". The evident hope that he was doing a Captain Oates was dashed by his perky return.

Eventually they hit a sporadically used railway and decided to lead the defunct van on to it. The programme ended with them waiting for the train and receiving the news that through exceptional rain (yes, in the Sahara) the railway line had disintegrated. Mick meanwhile evinced that mixture of maladroitness and self-righteousness that marks him out as a future manager in privatised utilities - or John Birt's BBC.

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Martin Hoyle

application is going through for one more site in England, at Greenwich. Acceptance as a site does not mean more cash or stricter planning controls, but confers status: "I would have lost the battle of Stonehenge if it had not been a World Heritage Site".

Greenwich is something of a pre-occupation for Sir Jocelyn. He did the wheeling and dealing behind the scenes to ensure that Mr Fortillo's plan to sell the redundant Royal Naval College to the highest practical bidder was scuppered, and he is confident that it will soon pass into the hands of the University of Greenwich and a charitable trust.

Sir Jocelyn is also battling to preserve St Pancras Station. Its status as a Grade One listed building has been undermined by the proposals to bring a new rail Euro route from France into St Pancras. Possible solutions to the crisis are either to change the lottery rules so that a company, in this case the new owners of St Pancras, can apply for lottery money to restore it, or selling the building to English Heritage for a nominal sum.

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SPORT

Old sages who know their onions

Teresa McLean discovers why some ageing deities have the edge on up-and-coming younger stars

Gooch is God in Essex. The only thing that distinguishes him from God in Heaven is the familiarity with which his adoring local public addresses him. "Goochie, Goochie, you're a class above. Goochie, Goochie, you've got us all in love."

Beer-soaked, nose-ringed, hair-plaited fans greeted all Graham Gooch's shots operatically in the jubilant corner of Writtle Road, Chelmsford, where we watched Essex pull off an unlikely one-day victory over Lancashire last Sunday. The sentiment had been the same, although more subdued, in the freezing wind at Ilford three weeks earlier when followers huddled in rugs to watch Gooch score 32 deft runs on the way to a last-over defeat by Kent.

"The man has class, that's what he has," they told me as we queued for hot drinks. If Gooch is out, it is the umpire's fault; if the ball is caught or the stumps hit, it is the

fault of those who have overburdened the ageing deity with too many games and too many duties, such as selecting Test players.

Gooch has reached this status without changing his unforthcoming character and his preference for, as he put it: "Letting my achievements speak for themselves rather than me going on about them." The only place where he is an extrovert is on the cricket field, but the mere fact of reaching this status is a rare achievement in the modern English game, which is short of cricketers to worship.

I do not mean cricket stars, who

are constantly set up and cut down by the media. I mean cricketers of more long-lasting distinction. Gooch was cheered off the field by a standing crowd last Sunday, not just because he scored 87 not out but because he scored them stylishly and calmly. He left the field calmly. He has become an elder statesman, who can give team and fans the reassurance of experience, all the more so now that he is no longer burdened with the pressures of captaincy and international cricket.

Even the pressures of county cricket have lessened. If Gooch plays badly, he can point to his job

as a selector as his most important one now. He is free just to do his best and his followers relish him as a safe idol. I think modern sport puts so much emphasis on instant success that it has forgotten the value of stability.

John Emburey is another player in his 40s who has been given other cricketing tasks and whose play seems to be flourishing as a result. Last winter Emburey was manager of the successful England A tour to Pakistan and now, after long years with Middlesex, he is at Northamptonshire as chief coach, playing when necessary.

Northampton are delighted with his presence, influence and, sometimes, his off-spin. Emburey is equally delighted with this new, advisory stage of his career. "Young players should relax and enjoy the game. The less pressure you put yourself under, the easier it will become." Mark Ramprakash told me sadly that it was impossible to explain how important Emburey had been in helping young Middlesex players to manage that. "Embers is gone. He's a great loss. Others will have to take over, but it'll take time - years maybe."

For too long captains have had

their leadership choked by masses of unsteady management, when the real requirement is for a team sage, who can give advice without threatening to be a job rival. Advanced age and a variety of occupations are key factors becoming a sage.

A young sage playing himself into power is a threat to team unity. Peter Willey, for instance, ended his long batting career in a turmoil of power struggles and uncertainties in a tormented Leicestershire team where he may not have intended to worsen that state of affairs, but where his strong presence had that

effect. After 17 years at Northampton, Willey moved to Leicester as vice-captain in 1984, becoming captain in 1987.

Philip DeFreitas was one of a number of impetuous, rising young players who proved so difficult to control that Willey resigned the captaincy after only one year. He continued to play for the county, which was a troublesome situation. DeFreitas, David Gower and Chris Lewis left Leicester between 1988 and 1991, the year the county asked Willey to leave.

Willey was in his 40s by then, but he was still a full-time player. He had not moved into his present area of success: umpiring. I am for the ageing sage exuding wisdom and playing part-time with a light touch because it is too late to matter. Or, as they put it in Chelmsford every time a Lancashire man was out: "Goodbye, goodbye. You could not stand up to Goochie. He's in a different league."

A summer party - off the field

Peter Aspden assesses the opening gambits

I remember an inspired BBC montage of highlights from the 1990 World Cup focusing on the early progress of the Italian and German teams.

There were the Italians, trying to open their account in their opening game: all back-flicks, delicate one-twos, expressions of anguish and waving of arms. The music, naturally enough, was a Rossini overture: frothy, playful, faintly ridiculous. A perfect marriage of sound and image.

There, on the other hand, were the Germans: firing goal after bombastic goal in their early assault on the trophy they would win a couple of weeks later. The soundtrack? It had to be the *Ride of the Valkyries*; nothing else would do.

Cheap stereotypes. But anyone watching the Germans dismantling the Czech Republic in their opening match of Euro 96 at Old Trafford could be left in no doubt as to what their players were humming to prepare for kick-off.

It took less than half an hour for the bombast to start: Christian Ziege, their marvellous left wing-back, impatiently shrugging off a couple of half-hearted challenges to fire the ball inside the goalkeeper's right-hand post. Minutes later, Andy Moller joined in the fun, finishing a 40-metre run with an action replay of Ziege's strike. Game over, try as one might, the phrase ruthless efficiency could scarcely be avoided.

So we looked to the Italians to overturn preconceptions. Sure enough, they provided

plenty of Wagnerian thunder of their own in an enthralling victory over an excellent Russian side at Anfield.

Pierluigi Casiraghi, fulfilling a childhood ambition to play at Liverpool's home ground, hit two ruthless strikes to bag the points. But the whole side was in no mood for idle frippery; they ran, chased and harried the Russians throughout the second half of a game that earlier seemed to be slipping out of reach.



The key to their victory was coach Arrigo Sacchi's replacement of the fey skills of Alessandro Del Piero by the battle-hardened nous of Roberto Donadoni. How England coach Terry Venables must envy Sacchi his versatile wide man, in turn cunning and conscientious, who so helped Paolo Maldini finally keep Andrei Kanchelskis quiet. The 32-year-old Donadoni is football intelligence personified; he will surely play a crucial role in this tournament.

There is a convergence the-

ory in international football which says that all teams must play in a certain way to be effective. Yet to watch the contrasting styles of the Germans and Italians - and we are not talking composers now - is to celebrate the diversity football still has to offer.

Sacchi is still enamoured of the very flat, 4-4-2 formation, constantly squeezing space and pressing in midfield, which brought him such success at AC Milan. It is, among other things, one in the eye for critics of English football who urge a more "sophisticated" formation. Sacchi's style, however, does call for supreme fitness, technique and intelligence. All three were much in evidence at Anfield on Tuesday.

Germany's coach Berti Vogts, by contrast, has instilled in his team a sense of fluidity which is far more reminiscent of the "total football" of the 1970s. It is not only Matthias Sammer, the team's sweeper, who comes forward at the slightest opportunity. Centre-back Thomas Helmer takes on defenders, while Ziege and Stefan Reuter threaten on the flanks. Germany's unsung hero is the balding figure of Dieter Ehlts, always filling in the holes when his more extravagant teammates spring forward. He will not win any accolades in Euro 96, but he is indispensable to the German style of play.

And what of England and Scotland? There is a common misconception that British footballers' technical skills are somehow blunted because they



Pierluigi Casiraghi, fulfilling a childhood ambition to play at Liverpool's home ground, bagged Italy's points on Wednesday

like to play at "100 miles-an-hour". This will come as interesting news to anyone who has watched Moller's breaks from midfield or witnessed the classic duel between Maldini and Kanchelskis, who threatened to set Anfield's touchlines alight. British footballers look like they are playing at 100 miles-an-hour because their

brains spend most of the game idling in neutral.

The BBC timed the move which resulted in Italy's second goal - from Di Livio to Zola to Casiraghi to back of the net - at 9.5 seconds. That is true 100 miles-an-hour football. England, by contrast, like to think that Steve McManaman sprinting unsupported for the entire length of the field constitutes a quickening of the game. In truth, it does not even quicken the opposing full back's pulse rate. This is cul-de-sac football, style-free and soulless.

Unless things take a dramatic turn, Euro 96 is going to

become known as the tournament which laid to rest the myth that, while British football might lack tactical subtlety, it yields to no one in pace and stamina. That limp second-half display by England against the Swiss at Wembley last Saturday was undeniably sluggish, while the Scots, admittedly stubborn, were clinging on against the Netherlands with a faintly humiliating desperation.

One can only feel a little sorry for Venables, who is becoming increasingly embroiled in off-the-field stories (although he should be used to them) when he has

such on-the-field problems to address.

If his young charges really cannot understand why drinking in a night club in the small hours after such an arduous performance might not be the best idea in the world, there is little we "traitors" can add. For Venables to compare it with Italian or Spanish players sipping wine at lunch or dinner is a disingenuousness too far.

The good news for "marriage England" - who would have thought that England's football would provide a more evocative interpretation of the Dark Ages than that listless opening ceremony? - is that the Euro

96 party is going with a swing. Supporters are mixing, drinking, enjoying.

I must admit I had had my doubts when, at Wembley, I saw a brisk trade in black T-shirts displaying a bulldog puffing on a Churchillian cigar and bearing the ominous words: "England: The Nightmare Returns." But, then again, I had not realised the prophetic message referred to events on the field.

■ Peter Aspden has been awarded the Raymond Pitter Prize by the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland, for his article on its current exhibition "Olympism in Antiquity".

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Rugby/Huw Richards

Facing up to power play

Visitors to Dunedin in New Zealand should visit the Early Settlers Museum, chronicling the lives of its pioneering 19th century inhabitants. The Scottish rugby union team - who play the All Blacks in the city today - might find it particularly useful.

Decorating an entire wall are portraits of those hardy settlers. Dour, dark clad, disapprovingly Victorian and overwhelmingly Scots Presbyterian, they are as grimly forbidding a bunch as can ever have gathered in one place - at least, until New Zealand started fielding rugby teams.

As Scotland contemplate their opponents and wonder how they became that way, there is at least the compensation of knowing that their outlook on life has impeccably Caledonian origins. Not least of Scotland's tasks is convincing the southern hemisphere that its scarcely concealed contempt for the other half of the world is misplaced.

With Wales in Australia and Scotland touring, they will at least see the European teams most committed to imaginative rugby. But that spirit of enterprise must now reckon with the power, pace and quality of support play displayed in the Super 12 competition - linking the best teams in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand - and by Australia in last week's 56-26 defeat of Wales.

Anyone watching Wales play

Australia in the 1990s has needed a pocket calculator, a list of scoring records and (if Welsh) a high pain threshold.

The priority now for Welsh rugby's rulers is simple - don't panic. Their predecessors' sacking of Tony Gray after the New Zealand tour of 1988 was, against much competition, the worst Welsh decision of the last decade. Not to keep faith with coach Kevin Bowring, and the change in outlook and tactics introduced last season would be, whatever happens next week in Sydney, a close second.

Scotland generally travel better. But the odds are that this morning's match and the second test in Auckland next Saturday will also conform to recent historical trends - that they are normally good enough to give New Zealand a decent game, but never quite manage (and never have in 91 years and 18 attempts) to beat them.

Best of their recent near misses was the second test at Auckland in 1990, the wonderfully combative scrum-half Gary Armstrong's finest hour as they fell unlikenly by 21-18. Armstrong could be back today. But, great player as he is, this may not help Scotland.

The absent Bryan Redpath's low-key, quick-passing style has helped release the creative genius of Gregor Townsend. And there is also the worry of a perennially dodgy front five.

Give Scotland England's playing resources - or England

Scotland's creatively pragmatic intelligence - and you might fashion a team to beat the southern giants.

Instead, Scotland serve New Zealand as the appetizer for a main course which challenges the proposition that you can have too much of a good thing. Today's match is the second of 10 the All Blacks will play in 13 weeks - by comparison full-back George Nepia, an unquestioned all-time great, took six years (1924-30) to accumulate a mere nine caps.

Five of those games will be against world champions South Africa - two in the new Tri-Nation championship also including Australia. Four will be played in South Africa.

The All Blacks, like a rich man choosing between a Bentley and the Ferrari, must decide whether Josh Kronfeld or Michael Jones plays outside and settle between Jeff Wilson, Glen Osborne and Hong Kong Sevens sensation Christian Cullen at full-back.

These quandaries will get them zero sympathy from opponents worried about line-out possession, the relatively poor performance of their provinces in a Super 12 won by Auckland and the ever-present nightmare of coping with Jonah Lomu.

Winger James Small, normally bullish even by the standards of international rugby players, recently painted Lomu

as rugby's equivalent of the West Indian pace attack, inducing genuine fear in opponents.

The key for South Africa may be recreating last year's intensity. The World Cup final looked like the defeat of an exceptional team by a merely highly motivated one. This series will tell us how far that was true.

It will also overshadow a development potentially as significant as the Tri-Nations. Realisation finally dawned among the Pacific regions second division - the likes of Canada, Fiji and West Samoa - that waiting for serious help from the big league meant waiting forever. (For all of the game's cant about international freemasonry, the big European unions, France apart, have been similarly neglectful of continental rugby.) The first act of the big three, on hitting the Super 12 jackpot, was to cut the Pacific islanders out of it.

Eight of them devised their own Pacific Championship, but the New Zealand firm charged with raising the requisite \$2m was unable to find the support. Unabashed, the northern quartet of Canada, USA, Hong Kong and Japan, have started their own competition and remain hopeful of bringing in Fiji, Tonga, Argentina and West Samoa in next year.

An opportunity perhaps for a sponsor really interested in putting something into the game?

What's on the principal cities

INTERNATIONAL ARTS GUIDE

What's on in the principal cities

ADELAIDE

EXHIBITION
Art Gallery of South Australia Tel: 61-8-2077000
Brett Whiteley Retrospective: Selected masterpieces...

AMSTERDAM

CONCERT
Concertgebouw Tel: 31-20-5730573
Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest with conductor Vassili Sinaiski...

DANCE
Het Muziektheater Tel: 31-20-5518117
Artifact: a choreography by William Forsythe...

EXHIBITION
Rijksmuseum Tel: 31-20-6732121
Disegni. Drie eeuwen Italiaanse tekenkunst...

EXHIBITION
Palais des Beaux-Arts Tel: 32-2-5078466
L'art en résistance. Peintres allemands de l'entre-deux-guerres...

BAD KISSINGEN

FESTIVAL
Kissinger Sommer Internationales Musikfestival Tel: 49-971-807110
Kissinger Sommer Music Festival: during the last century...

BARCELONA

EXHIBITION
Fundació Antoni Tàpies Tel: 34-3-4870315
Cranie Horsfield: exhibition of about 50 photographs...

BASEL

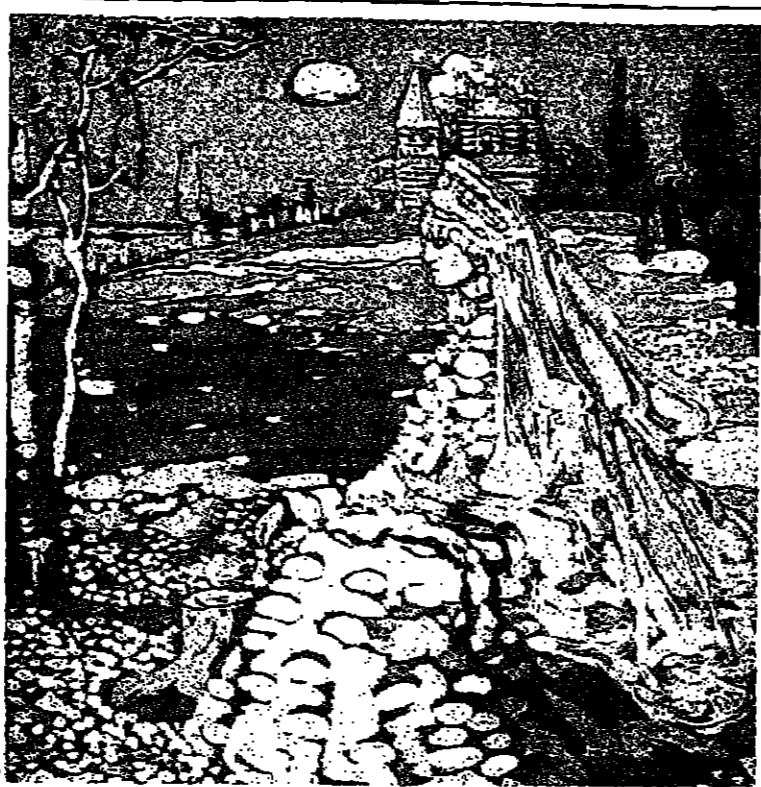
EXHIBITION
Kunstmuseum Basel Tel: 41-61-2710228
Kupferstecher, Radierung, Aquatinta. Werke von Schongauer bis Baselitz...

BERLIN

CONCERT
Deutsche Oper Berlin Tel: 49-30-3438940
Carmen: Burana: by Orff. Conducted by Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos...

BIRMINGHAM

CONCERT
Symphony Hall Tel: 44-121-2002000
The Michael Nyman Band: in a programme created to celebrate the European Football Championships.



In Munich: 'Russische Schöne in Landschaft', 1904 by Kandinsky

The first half of the programme features After Extra Time, the title of his new album, which Nyman describes as a five-a-side football match for his band...

BRUSSELS

EXHIBITION
Palais des Beaux-Arts Tel: 32-2-5078466
L'art en résistance. Peintres allemands de l'entre-deux-guerres: exhibition of works by German artists...

CAPE TOWN

OPERA
Nico Theatre Tel: 27-21-215470
La Tragédie de Carmen: by Bizet. Conducted by Henry Moodie...

CHICAGO

MUSICAL
Shubert Theater Tel: 1-312-977-1700
How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying: created by Frank Loesser and Abe Burrows...

DUBLIN

EXHIBITION
Irish Museum of Modern Art Tel: 353-1-6718666
Sean Scully: Twenty Years: this exhibition includes about 30 paintings and 32 watercolours...

DUBLIN

CONCERT
Victoria Hall Tel: 41-22-3268573
Orchestre de la Suisse Romande: with conductor Heinz Holliger and cellist David Geringas...

GLASGOW

CONCERT
Glasgow Royal Concert Hall Tel: 44-141-3326833
The Royal Scottish National Orchestra: with conductor Wayne Marshall and trumpeter Ole Edvard...

HAMBURG

CONCERT
Musikhalle Hamburg Tel: 49-40-348920
Philharmonisches Staatsorchester: with conductor Gerd Albrecht and pianist Lars Vogt...

HAMBURG

CONCERT
Musikhalle Hamburg Tel: 49-40-348920
Degas: Beyond Impressionism: this exhibition features the late work of Edgar Degas...

HAMBURG

CONCERT
Musikhalle Hamburg Tel: 49-40-348920
Leighton Centenary Celebrations: exhibition on the occasion of the centennial of the death of Frederic...

centrepiece will be the newly restored frescoes 'The Arts of Industry Applied to War' and 'The Arts of Industry Applied to Peace'...

by the 19th century American painter. The display, giving an overview of Homer's work in more than 20 years...

OSLO
POP-MUSIC
Spectrum Tel: 47-22-176 610
Bryan Adams: performance by the Canadian singer/guitarist; 7.30pm; Jun 18

OTTAWA
EXHIBITION
National Gallery of Canada Tel: 1-613-990-1995
Corot: major retrospective featuring 155 works by the French 19th century landscape painter Jean Baptiste Corot...

PARIS
CONCERT
Salle Pleyel Tel: 33-1-45 61 53 00
Vladimir Ashkenazy: recital by the pianist. The programme includes works by Mozart and Chopin...

MANNHEIM
EXHIBITION
Städtische Kunsthalle Tel: 49-621-28384
Paul Klee. Die Zeit der Reife: exhibition of works by Paul Klee (1879-1940) from the collection of the Klee family...

MILAN
OPERA
Teatro alla Scala di Milano Tel: 39-2-7200374
Fedora: by Giordano. Conducted by Armando Testa...

MONTREAL
EXHIBITION
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montréal Tel: 1-514-285-1600
René Magritte: major exhibition devoted to the work of this Belgian Surrealist...

PHILADELPHIA
EXHIBITION
Philadelphia Museum of Art Tel: 1-215-763-8100
Cézanne: an international loan exhibition spanning the career of Paul Cézanne (1839-1906)...

TOKYO
CONCERT
Kioi Hall Tel: 81-3-52764500
Evelyn Glennie and Philip Smith: the percussionist and pianist perform works by Paganini, Alvaré, Kreisler and Bartók...

VIENNA
CONCERT
Konzertsaal Tel: 43-1-7121211
Camerata Academica: with conductor Alexander Janiczek and pianist Andrés Schiff...

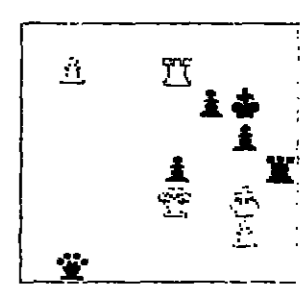
NANTES
EXHIBITION
Musée des Beaux-Arts de Nantes Tel: 33-40-47 65 65
Henry Moore - L'Expression première, dessins, plâtres et taille directe: retrospective exhibition devoted to the British sculptor Henry Moore...

NEW YORK
EXHIBITION
The Metropolitan Museum of Art Tel: 1-212-879-5500
American Printmaking 1860-1900: Winslow Homer and His Contemporaries: an exhibition to complement the Homer painting retrospective...

WASHINGTON
CONCERT
Concert Hall Tel: 1-202-467 4600
National Symphony Orchestra: with conductor Christopher Hogwood and pianist Steven Lubin...

CHESS

The postponed Karpov (Russia) v Kamsky (US) 20-game Fide world title match began in Elista, Kalmykia, this week with the players still arguing over money and conditions.



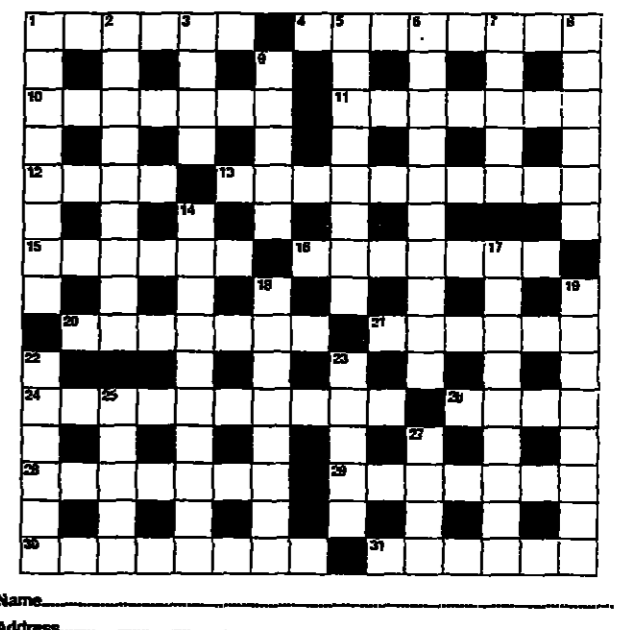
Leonard Barden
Solves Page 11
Campora v Shirazi, Lane Piper 1881. A pawn down but with a passed 87 pawn, White played 1. Re5. At the game commentator, do you tell your audience that (a) Campora has blundered (b) it is the only way to save the game (c) White is lost anyway (d) it's a trap, let's see if Shirazi falls for it?

BRIDGE

The defence on this deal was so slick, the declarer thought it rudimentary. That it was not repeated at any other table, proves otherwise.
The star of the show, sitting East in this Cape Town tournament, was Irving Ross, the former British international who died a few weeks ago.

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1 Mail-boat making large sum money (6)
4 Mosquito was one design in pottery (5)
10 Resolve, expert fighter-pilot (7)
11 I go wrong in suggestion for restaurant-food (7)
12 Double red blown in the wind (4)
13 Delivery-charger for geranium-like plant (6-4)
15 Brewing vessel English apt to bring out (6)
16 Print can be charming, even without a leader (7)
18 Hors d'oeuvre stirring avaree? (7)
21 Empathic denial about Royal's first country (6)
24 Peacemakers paving the way, tirelessly (10)
26 High water? (4)
28 Tearing about makes Aberdeen such a city (7)
29 Triumvirates a risk to constitution (7)
30 Members and constituents? (8)
31 Girl out of breath (6)
Solution 9,094

WINNERS 9,095: R. Howe, Harrington, Middlesex; D. Fairburn, Kenilworth, Warwick; Tracy Fryer, Crail, Pte; Sally Gregory, Lincoln; J. Oskton, Whitechurch, Hants; M. O'Meara, Hyde, Kent.



James Morgan

At last a sporting chance for peace

Is football becoming a gentleman's game in a new spirit of international goodwill? Today's match could be the test

I have a feeling - maybe it is premature, maybe a little naive - that it could just be the case that great sporting events help bring people together. The general view is that such occasions are a source of ill will and xenophobia. Football is almost synonymous with the tattooed skin-head, the lumpy lout. England gave the world the game and then provided its most obvious symbol. The one country that remained aloof from international team-sport competitions, or at least from any success, the US, is one of the few to escape the ubiquitous sporting ho-

ligan. But the latest footballing festival seems to be moving into a new era of friendship. Only the Bulgarian team's rejection of Scarborough as a home marred the opening week. But their football reflected the game as a metaphor for life on this continent and the compromises involved. A philosophical account appeared in *Bulgarskija Armija* after the team drew with Spain last Sunday. It was headlined: "One goal, one point and one red card." It emerged also that the peoples of the seven continental European Union nations in the tournament

refused to regard England as an enemy, in spite of the best efforts of its government. As *Liberation* put it: "At the moment when London plunges Europe into confusion by provoking the war of bovine sperm and tallow, one won't be able to avoid seeing the great and [if possible] joyful celebrations as a fable of the hand outstretched, in spite of everything, by a Europe which obstinately refuses to consider England as foreign... From the mad cow to football, it is a little of the same and ancient story which is finally played out here: the rejection of rancour on the part of a

continent for which England will always be European, even in spite of herself." It is hard to imagine anything more calculated to provoke a vicious reaction in England than this gesture of goodwill. But the English have behaved well, up to now. Their national side even went so far as to give up football in the second half of the match against Switzerland last Saturday, just to make absolutely sure their guests did not go away from the game empty handed. The Paris sports daily, *L'Equipe*, was surprised not only by the relaxed English

approach but also by the phlegmatic crowd: "Even recognising that the spectators at this opening match consisted of businessmen, rather than the normal fans, the public never made itself heard. Never has Wembley been so mute." Things have come to a pretty pass if soccer crowds are drawn from the torpid middle classes. If this is so, which sport will now carry the flame of violent national passions? The answer emerged on Monday - rugby. The English Rugby Football Union signed a contract with BSkyB giving Rupert Murdoch the TV rights to all

England's home games for £87.5m. The Welsh, Irish and Scots were appalled - they, with France, would hold a four nation championship if England persisted in this course. The *Western Mail*, the newspaper of Wales, said England's action was "the most blatant example of greed and incompetence which have come to typify the game". Up to now these have been the virtues that made soccer the world's favourite sport. The Scots agreed with the Welsh, but according to *L'Equipe*, France would not be interested in a championship without the team it loves

to hate, England. Rugby is now pulled apart by nationalism, as well as greed, which could wipe out the Five Nations, one of the greatest, oldest competitions in the world. The test for the new era of gentleman's soccer comes today, England play Scotland. If that test is passed, the European championships could turn into *Liberation's* "joyful festival". Euro 96 may not make Europeans of Englishmen but it may well provide a happier symbol of unity than the forthcoming Maastricht championship, Euro 99. James Morgan is BBC World Service economics correspondent.

Private View

The struggle of the survivor

Christian Tyler meets Elie Wiesel who talks about life after genocide

A hand went up near the front of the audience. "Professor Wiesel, I have a question. I too, was on the death march from Auschwitz. And my question is, may I come forward now and shake you by the hand?" A diminutive figure detached itself from the crowd and approached the platform. There was a profound hush as the two men embraced. A young woman in the audience began weeping silently. For the writer and teacher Elie Wiesel, among the most prominent living witnesses to the genocide of European Jewry, moments like this at a recent gathering in London are inevitable. This softly spoken professor and Nobel Peace prize winner has become the voice through which camp survivors can speak, the mourner through whom families of the millions dead can grieve.

But his injunction *zachor* (remember) is fraught with paradox as well as pain. It can even be controversial, not least among a younger generation of Jewish academic historians. For Wiesel asserts that the survivor knows something which nobody else can ever know, something which he himself cannot fathom and for which, therefore, another's explanation can never be adequate. No one who has stood on the ramp by the railway line at Auschwitz-Birkenau where the 15-year-old Elie Wiesel stood with his family in May 1944, or who has seen the twisted remains of the gas chambers and crematoria where his mother, grandmother and little sister probably died, would dare challenge Wiesel's need to remember what he cannot forget.

Yet the survivor can find himself strangely on the defensive. Only a handful of Wiesel's 40 books have been about the Holocaust (a word he claims to have used first but one he finds increasingly inaccurate). Now, however, he has revisited that ugly place in a first volume of memoirs called *All Rivers Run to the Sea*. Was it for himself or for others that he kept telling the story? "For myself I would simply write and put it in a drawer. Why burden young people with terrifying stories? It is too late for the dead, too late even for those who survived death. But it is not too late for our children. 'Whatever I try to do is

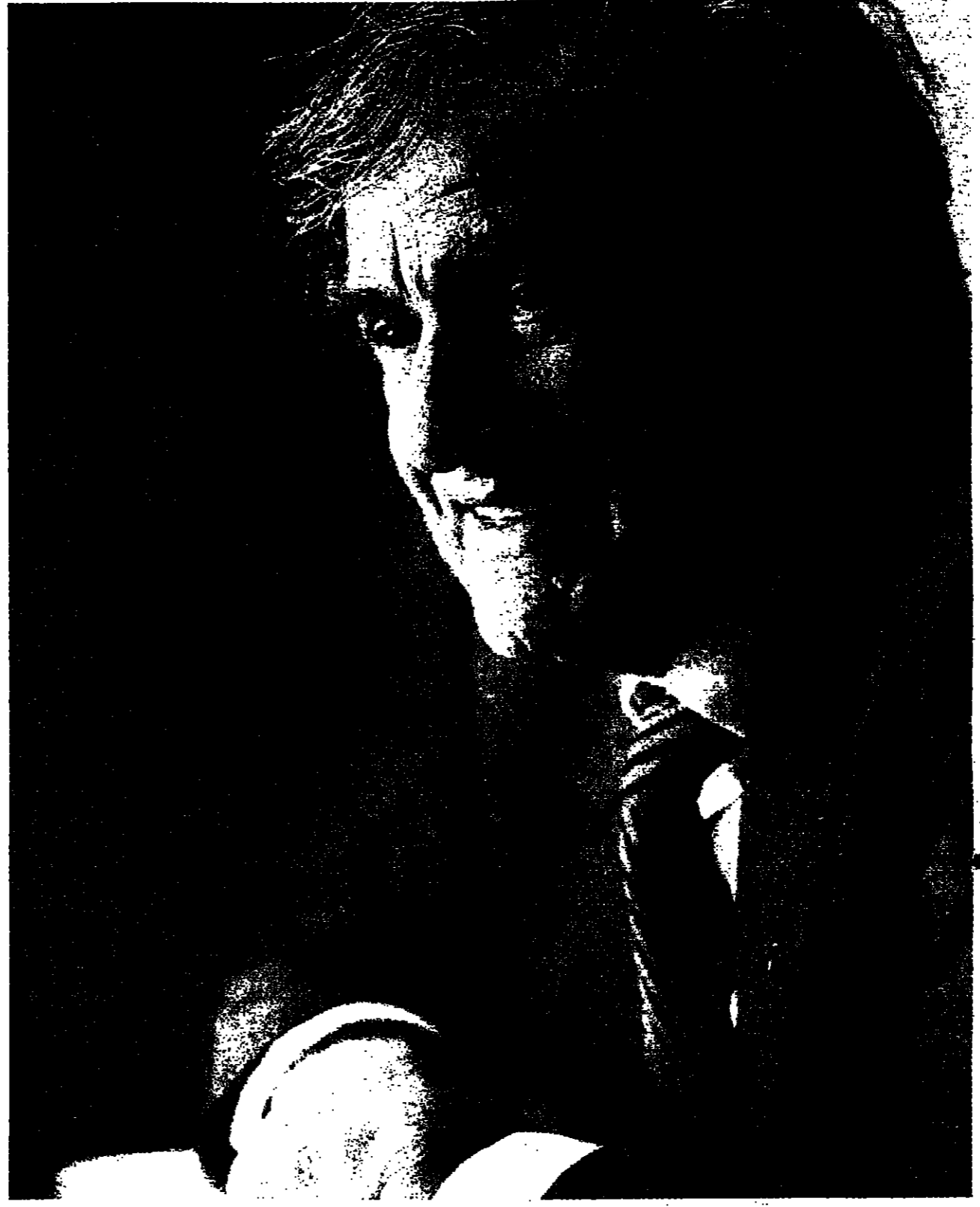
really for the children of the world.'" The paradox at the heart of Wiesel's remembering is that he seems to be trying to explain something he believes inexplicable. I mentioned Daniel Goldhagen's recent book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, which blames a deep-rooted cultural anti-Semitism for the Germans' capacity to murder in cold blood, and Christopher Browning's *Ordinary Men* which blamed peer pressure and the abdication of individual responsibility. "Wiesel accepts neither thesis. 'I don't believe in collective guilt nor do I believe in collective innocence. Guilt and innocence are individual descriptions. Only the guilty are guilty. Children of killers are not killers, but children. I don't like theories.'" "There are no words, that's the whole problem. The enemy succeeded in pushing his crimes to the outer limits of language, and therefore there are no words. No theory, really, is valid. I have only questions."

Is it because you are a survivor that you resist all explanations of this academic kind? "I think most survivors do, really." So for someone who endured and survived there is no relief to be had from explanation? "Absolutely. Only those who were there know what it meant being there. The outsiders will never know. They can come close, but never know. I always compare it to the friends of Job: Job suffered - and his friends explained." Wiesel rejects even the powerful amount left by Primo Levi, who was with him in Monowitz, the factory camp at Auschwitz, on the grounds that their circumstances were so different. Levi, who committed suicide in 1987, was an assimilated Jew from Italy, he was older, was protected by his usefulness as a slave-labour chemist. Above all, he was not religious, so escaped Wiesel's crisis of faith. "He was much too harsh on the survivors, for instance, when he spoke about people in the 'grey zone' (like the prisoner kaper who beat and tortured fellow inmates). The survivors suffered enough. They don't deserve that. Levi more or less said that the best persecuted and the worst survived." Before an audience Wiesel is a good performer: tender, humorous and philosophical. Close to, it is easy to read the line of the trauma in the craggy face and hear grief in the wis-

pering voice. Was there an element of performance here? I think not. Survivors of the extermination camps are not only witnesses to the greatest systematic slaughter in history, they are damaged individuals. Wrenched from a cosy, religious village life in Sighet, Romania, separated from the women and girls of the family at Birkenau (although he found his two elder sisters alive after the war), Wiesel clung to his father in Auschwitz and watched him die after the march to Buchenwald. Are survivors permanently damaged? "Absolutely. Psychiatrists have proven that the tortured person remains tortured to the end of his or her life." Do you feel it every day? He paused, and then his voice was almost inaudible. "I feel it. I don't speak about it. It's personal. It's very

deep...sad. I think of my father literally every single day. I see my family, literally every day, and I dream about them by night." Do you dream about the camp itself? "Yes. More and more so. It's recent, it's astonishing. I checked with my friends who are also survivors and they told me the same thing." Wiesel has devised a kind of shorthand for speaking about the unspeakable. One of his *dicata* is that suffering does not confer privileges. Does it confer an obligation? "No, not even that." Not even that you must stand as a representative of your generation? "That's something else. If we invoke our suffering to diminish the suffering around us, that's a different kind of message." (Wiesel was awarded the Nobel prize for helping minorities in various parts of the world.) To be a writer of the Holocaust is no kind of relief even if the writer feels driven. "I don't feel I really communicate

what I want to. I have the feeling that none of us there has ever succeeded. "If one day we will, then the world will tremble. But we have not yet managed to speak with the fire and the fear and the awesomeness of the revelation. I compare it to that moment on Mount Sinai. We would reveal something..." What kind of thing? "I don't know. About the nature of man, the destiny of man." Did Levi commit suicide because he couldn't say what he was trying to say? "I think the other way round. That if he could say it, it would change the world. We all feel that. And since the world hasn't changed, that means he couldn't say it." Wiesel noted the number of writer survivors who had committed suicide - not only Primo Levi but Piotr Rawicz, Paul Celan, Jerzy Kosinski and Bruno Bettelheim. Were you tempted to suicide? "Once I had the temptation. Not any more." So have you survived your survival? "Does one ever survive one's survival? I remember one of my students asked a poignant question in class. She said, 'my father is a survivor. Will he always be?' For the children, it's terrible." Do you want revenge? "No. I don't believe in revenge. I was never in the field of Nazi-hunting. It's not my style."



Writer Elie Wiesel: 'Whatever I try to do is really for the children of the world'

'No. I don't believe in revenge. I was never in the field of Nazi-hunting. It's not my style.'

Peter Aspden

A crime that cannot speak its name



In common with hundreds, possibly thousands, of British motorists, I spent a large part of last Saturday morning hanging around a garage waiting for a new quarter light window to be fitted to my car. I had good company; there were three of us, all with different cars from different decades, with the same problem. We incanted the familiar mantra of those who suffer at the hands of petty criminals: lack of discipline, politics of envy, blame the parents, drugs, inner cities and so on. I threw in a more liberal "lack of employment opportunities" but, in truth, this sounded a duff note in our reactionary song of despair. Despite political differences, we had something further in common. All of us had taken every precaution advised by every authority in the land to prevent the crime from occurring. None of us had left anything

remotely valuable in view. Car stereos were either removed or rendered inoperable. Alarms were switched on. In my case, the quarter light had been broken for a speculative rummage through my glove box, in which there was, surprise, a pair of gloves so unappealing as to have been left in their proper place by the thieves. Or should that be vandals? For because nothing was actually taken from my car, the break-in does not register in official Home Office figures for theft from cars. This figure - 814,000 in 1995 - has been falling from its peak of nearly a million in 1992. But how valuable a figure is it in the first place? The Automobile Association estimates as many as two out of three victims of theft from cars do not bother to report the incident to the police. I did make a point of reporting my case; but the very affable constable who took my details was not a picture of optimism with regard to catching the miscreants. So, beyond

expensive alarms and festooning one's vehicle with pictures of coxswains or scorpions (there is a PhD thesis to be written on the iconography of the modern motor car), what can be done? There is the laminated glass solution. Most victims of theft from cars do not report the incident to the police. tion: surround yourself with strengthened windscreens. But then you have to accept that your car will be heavier, less fuel-efficient, more of a pollution hazard. And, if you happen to be driving in the Netherlands, potentially fatal if you slip into a dyke, a point which is more than

enough for Brussels to veto such a move. Then there is the technique of showing any potential thieves that you have absolutely nothing in your car at all - a kind of glove-box glassnost. Open all compartments, shine a beam under your seats, leave the dashboard uncluttered. Draw attention to your lack of possessions. (A friend who lives in Seville takes this to its logical conclusion by keeping his car unlocked at all times, with a note explaining that it a) contains nothing and b) is not worth very much. That way, it is only violated by homeless tramps who spend happy nights in the back seat. It is an imaginative solution to homelessness, at least.) These are pleasingly perverse solutions, but unlikely to appeal to most car owners. People who spend upwards of £30,000 on a car for looks, styling or turbo thrust are not famous for their discretion. Fuel injected ostentation on the outside with an interior of cool zen minimal-

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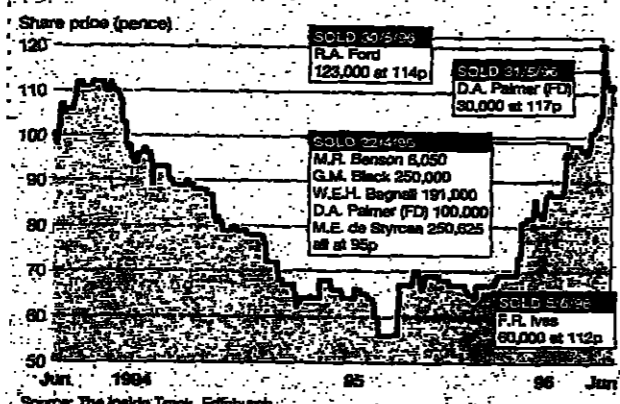
Affordable as a pair of jeans!

Directors' dealings

This week has seen a lot more activity than last - and some intriguing purchases, writes Vision MacDonald of The Inside Track. One of the most interesting was at retailing group Searns where non-executive chairman Sir Bob Reid bought a further 25,000 shares at 85.5p.

operator Tamaris, with three major purchases in the past six months. The latest was by non-executive director Richard Pears, who bought 500,000 shares at 3.5p. His holding now totals 4m. Most interesting sale of the week was at property consultant Chesterton International, where executive director Roger Ford sold 120,000 shares at 114p after a sale by Francis Ives last week of 60,000. The shares have outperformed the market by 53 per cent over the last year.

Chesterton International



Last week's preliminary results

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Year, Profit (2000), Earnings per share (p), Dividend per share (p). Lists companies like Acel, Alpiantec, Amberley Group, etc.

Directors' share transactions in their own companies

Table with columns: Company, Director, Shares, Value, % of Shares. Lists transactions for various companies like Acel, Alpiantec, Amberley Group, etc.

Results due next week

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Amount, Last year, Dividend, This year. Lists companies like Acel, Alpiantec, Amberley Group, etc.

Last week's interim results

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Profit, Earnings per share, Dividend per share. Lists companies like Acel, Alpiantec, Amberley Group, etc.

Flights issues

Cathay Group is to raise about £11.5m via a 1-10 rights issue at 81p. British Airways is to raise about £2m via a 1-4 rights issue at 23p.

The week ahead

MONDAY: British Steel is expected to report record profits of about 53m pre-tax, about 60 per cent more than last year. THURSDAY: Northern Electric, the regional electricity company, is expected to report a 20 per cent rise in total dividends to 39.5p a share, up from 33.5p.

In the Pink

The slippery slope to a European federal state

Brian Reading examines the case for getting out and going it alone to prosperity

It is fashionable to bemoan the quality of the debate over Europe, particularly among those who denigrate others with whom they disagree. Prime minister John Major accused those favouring Britain's departure from the European Union as living in "cloud cuckoo land". He forgot that a week before Britain's exit from the European exchange rate mechanism in September 1992, he referred to advocates of that as "quack doctors".

Douglas Hurd, the former foreign secretary, inexplicably believes that the Referendum party formed by multi-millionaire financier Sir James Goldsmith could take Europe back to "1945 or 1935". Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor of the exchequer, says it is "absurd" to suggest that Britain could prosper outside the EU. Niall FitzGerald, UK chairman-designate of food group Unilever, says it is "irresponsible and self-indulgent to claim there is a serious case for withdrawal".

That is their view. But a powerful case can be made showing that a single currency would spawn a federal superstate and that, in time, the UK would benefit by unhitching from Europe. Put very simply, a single currency means the same money for several nations. Its supply and value will be controlled by an independent European Central Bank (ECB) modelled on the Bundesbank, which has delivered sound money to Germans for decades.

How did it do this? Money is mostly bank deposits. Banks create deposits by extending advances. Their ability to do so is limited by their holdings of "high-powered money" (cash, balances with central banks, and assets like treasury bills that can be turned

easily into cash by borrowing against them from central banks), and by the ratios they maintain between their reserves of high-powered money and their deposit liabilities. Bank deposit growth, therefore, depends on how much governments borrow from them by selling them bills. When banks buy government bills, their deposits can rise by a multiple of their purchases, technically the inverse of

lignite governments by raising interest rates to prevent money supply growth. They cannot determine the size of budget deficits or how high interest rates must then rise to negate them. But no government runs an excessively large budget deficit deliberately if crippling interest rates undo its stimulative effect.

The single currency will undermine this discipline. The ECB faces not one but several alternatives to expel defaulters automatically. Yet, no credible alternative discipline has been suggested. No government will transgress deliberately. All will promise and strive to remain virtuous. But politicians cannot deliver what voters will not accept... The Euro will be weak and unsound.

The only alternative to expelling transgressors - a retreat from the single currency - will be to advance to a federal superstate. National fiscal sovereignty will be abandoned progressively to a European finance ministry with a large enough federal budget to hide fiscal transfers between member countries. Thus, just as the single market was the slippery slope to the single currency, so the single currency is the slippery slope to European federalism.

Hurd says that he, Major and Labour party leader Tony Blair all vote in a Goldsmith referendum against a European superstate. Logically, they must show an alternative way of disciplining fiscally sovereign governments - or vote against a single currency, too. But disciplining governments is federalism, and the lost freedom to tax and spend according to one's own voters' wishes ends national sovereignty.

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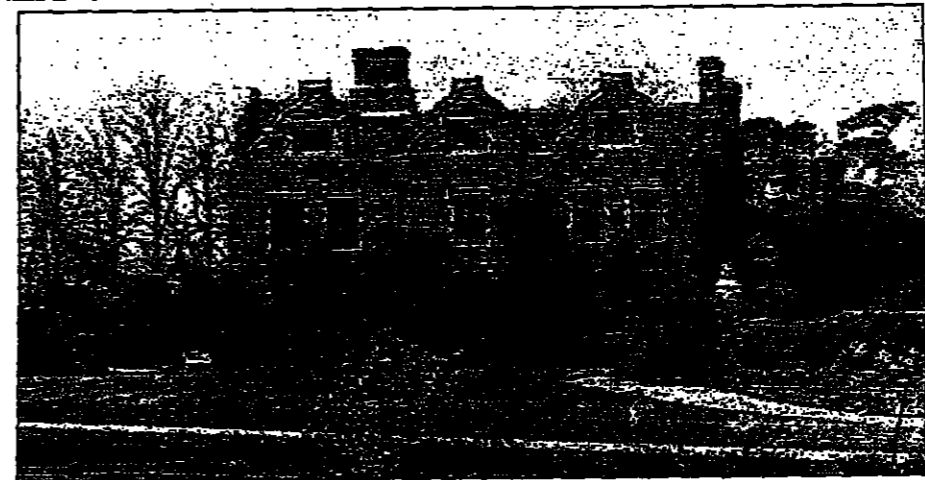
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Table listing Bermuda (SIB Recognised) funds including Fidelity Currency Funds Ltd, Fidelity International Funds Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

BERMUDA (REGULATED)**

Table listing Bermuda (Regulated) funds including Bermuda Int'l Growth Fund Ltd, Bermuda Int'l Income Fund Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

GUERNSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Guernsey (SIB Recognised) funds including All Investment Managers (Guernsey) Ltd, Adams & Hunter Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

GUERNSEY (REGULATED)**

Table listing Guernsey (Regulated) funds including All Investment Managers (Guernsey) Ltd, Adams & Hunter Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

GUERNSEY (REGULATED)**

Table listing Guernsey (Regulated) funds including ANZ Mutual Co (Guernsey) Ltd, ANZ Investment Management Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

IRELAND (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Ireland (SIB Recognised) funds including All Fund Management Ltd, All Investment Managers (Ireland) Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

IRELAND (REGULATED)**

Table listing Ireland (Regulated) funds including All Fund Management Ltd, All Investment Managers (Ireland) Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

ISLE OF MAN (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Isle of Man (SIB Recognised) funds including Dynamic Pacific Portfolio Fund Plc, Equinox Capital Europe Fund Plc, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

ISLE OF MAN (REGULATED)**

Table listing Isle of Man (Regulated) funds including ANZ Equity & Low Int'l Bond Mgt, ANZ Growth & Income Mgt, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

ISLE OF MAN (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Isle of Man (SIB Recognised) funds including ANZ Equity & Low Int'l Bond Mgt, ANZ Growth & Income Mgt, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

JERSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Jersey (SIB Recognised) funds including All Fund Managers (J) Ltd, All Investment Managers (Jersey) Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

JERSEY (REGULATED)**

Table listing Jersey (Regulated) funds including Bank of Scotland Fund Managers (Jersey) Ltd, Bank of Scotland International Growth Fund Plc, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

JERSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Jersey (SIB Recognised) funds including Bank of Scotland Fund Managers (Jersey) Ltd, Bank of Scotland International Growth Fund Plc, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

JERSEY (REGULATED)**

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LUXEMBOURG (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Luxembourg (SIB Recognised) funds including Luxembourg Financial Services Limited, Luxembourg Investment Management Ltd, and others with columns for fund name, price, and change.

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Table of fund prices and performance metrics, including columns for fund name, price, and change.

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OTHER OFFSHORE FUNDS

OFFSHORE INSURANCES

Table of offshore insurance products and their details.

MANAGED FUNDS BY TYPE
A list of fund types and their corresponding performance metrics.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES (Jun 14/US\$)

Table of US stock market data including S&P 500, Dow Jones, and various sector indices with columns for date, price, and change.

CANADA (Jun 14/Can \$)

Table of Canadian stock market data including TSX 300 and various sector indices.

EUROPE

Table of European stock market data for various countries including UK, France, Germany, and Italy.

ASIA

Table of Asian stock market data for various countries including Japan, Hong Kong, and others.

AFRICA

Table of African stock market data for various countries including South Africa and others.

Advertisement for Peregrine Global Distribution, featuring a globe and the text 'Peregrine has the world's largest team dedicated to the international distribution of Asian securities.'

INDICES

Table of global indices including S&P 500, Nikkei, and others with columns for date, price, and change.

US INDICES

Table of US indices including Dow Jones, S&P 500, and various sector indices.

AFRICA

Table of African indices including South African and other regional indices.

PACIFIC

Table of Pacific indices including Japanese and other regional indices.

INDEX FUTURES

Table of index futures prices for S&P 500, Dow Jones, and others.

INDEX FUTURES

Table of index futures prices for European and Asian indices.

INDEX FUTURES

Table of index futures prices for US and other regional indices.

INDEX FUTURES

Table of index futures prices for Pacific and other regional indices.

INDEX FUTURES

Table of index futures prices for various global indices.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring 'AMERICA Copp', 'EUROPE Bad no', and 'ASIA PACIFIC Nikkei' with various text and graphics.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE: Dealings

Details of business done shown below have been taken with consent from the London Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission. Details relate to those securities not included in the FT Share Information Services.

Unless otherwise indicated prices are in pence. The prices are those at which the business was done in the 24 hours up to 5 pm on Thursday and settled through the Stock Exchange Talisman system, they are not in order of execution but in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest dealings.

For those securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List the latest recorded business in the four previous days is given with the relevant date.

† Bargains at special prices. ‡ Bargains done the previous day.

British Funds, etc. Treasury 13 1/2% 2003-03-21 Exchange 10 1/2% 2005-01-15

Corporations and Country Stocks. Barclay's City of London 11 1/2% Red Sub 2000-01-18

UK Public Bonds. Metropolitan Water 5 1/2% A 2003-03-21

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Vertical sidebar containing 'BOND' and 'MARKET REPORT' sections with various financial data and advertisements.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET REPORT

Bond worries and Sumitomo news hits shares

By Steve Thompson, UK Stock Market Editor
Renewed worries about global bond markets continued to weigh heavily on shares in London, which turned in another disappointing performance yesterday.

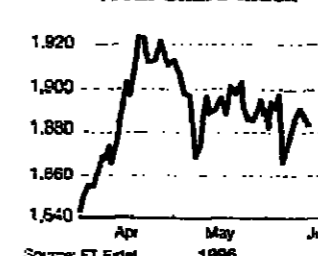
The pressure on gilts stemmed, dealers said, from weakness in German bonds, which reflected increasing concerns about the Russian elections, due to commence this weekend, which could see the return of communist rule.

Treasury bonds, on the other hand, were not overly troubled by the Russian election and performed relatively well yesterday afternoon, in the wake of the latest US economic news, on industrial and manufacturing production.

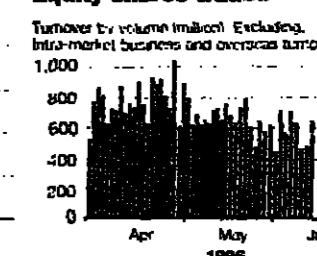
The statistics tied in with a series of US economic data, including retail sales and producer and consumer prices, which showed little sign of inflationary pressures.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 8.1 lower at 3,753.6 and would have fared much worse without a lift from the consumer areas of the market, especially the big retailers.

FT-SE-A All-Share Index



Equity shares traded



Indices and ratios table with columns for Index Name, Value, and Change. Includes FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE-A 350, FT-SE-A All-Share, etc.

FT-SE 100 Index table with columns for Index Name, Value, and Change. Includes Closing index for Jun 14, Change over week, etc.

TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

Table listing trading volume for major stocks including ASDA Group, Biffaward, British Airways, etc. Columns include Vol, Closing, and Day's change.

EQUITY, FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

Stock index futures edged lower in dull volume for the second session running, but managed to end the week with a net advance of 36 points, writes Jeffrey Brown.

Table showing FT-SE 100 Index Futures (LFE) and FT-SE 100 Index Options (LFO) with columns for Open, Settle, Change, High, Low, etc.

FT-SE-A INDICES - LEADERS & LAGGARDS

Table showing percentage changes for FT-SE-A indices including Support Services, Leisure & Hotels, Engineering, etc.

Copper dent for Delta

The losses at Sumitomo Corporation, the world's largest copper trader, prompted renewed weakness in the price of the metal and affected some London stocks.

NEW 52 WEEK HIGHS AND LOWS

Table listing new 52 week highs and lows for various stocks including Delta, Sumitomo, etc.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

Table showing price changes for various stocks including Antofagasta, BHP, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices

Table showing FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices for various sectors like FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, etc.

The UK Series

Table showing UK Series data including GDP, Inflation, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries All-Share

Table showing FT-SE Actuaries All-Share data for various dates from 1995 to 1996.

Hourly movements

Table showing hourly movements for FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry baskets

Table showing FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry baskets for various sectors like Energy, Telecom, etc.

Retail boost

While the rest of the market was experiencing a lacklustre session, figures from the John Lewis Partnership showing a 21.4 per cent year-on-year sales increase in its department stores acted as a trigger for active buying of retail stocks.

Kingfisher, as dealers

suggested the good weather is likely to benefit its B&Q DIY unit. A squeeze early in the day helped the shares finish 13 ahead at 640p.

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TRUSTS SPLIT CAPITAL - Cont.

Table listing various investment trusts with columns for name, price, and other financial metrics.

Table titled 'THE INVESTMENT TRUSTS' providing detailed financial data for several trusts.

Table titled 'INVESTMENT COMPANIES' listing various companies and their market performance.

Table titled 'LEISURE & HOTELS' listing companies in the leisure and hotel sectors.

LEISURE & HOTELS - Cont.

Table listing leisure and hotel companies.

LIFE ASSURANCE

Table listing life assurance companies.

MEDIA

Table listing media companies.

OIL EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Table listing oil exploration and production companies.

OIL INTEGRATED

Table listing oil integrated companies.

OTHER FINANCIAL - Cont.

Table listing other financial companies.

PAPER, PACKAGING & PRINTING

Table listing paper, packaging, and printing companies.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing pharmaceutical companies.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing other financial companies.

PROPERTY - Cont.

Table listing property companies.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing retailers and food companies.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing general retailers.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table listing support services companies.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table listing support services companies.

SUPPORT SERVICES - Cont.

Table listing support services companies.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing telecommunications companies.

TEXTILES & APPAREL

Table listing textiles and apparel companies.

TOBACCO

Table listing tobacco companies.

TRANSPORT

Table listing transport companies.

AM - Cont.

Table listing American companies.

AMERICANS

Table listing American companies.

CANADIANS

Table listing Canadian companies.

SOUTH AFRICANS

Table listing South African companies.

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